News
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Bureau of Labor Statistics
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Jane Gelman (202) 523-1091
Kathryn Hoyle (202) 523-1913

FOR RELEASE: 2:00 P.M. E.S.T.
Friday, January 29, 1982

WORK STOPPAGES: 1981

All principal measures of work stoppages for 1981 were the lowest in decades, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Idleness as a proportion of estimated available working time, at 0.11 percent (1.1 days idle per thousand), the number of workers involved in strikes (1.1 million), and the days of idleness (24.7 million) were the lowest since the mid-1960's. The number of stoppages beginning in the year (2,577) was the lowest since 1940 (table 1). Work stoppage measures reflect the light bargaining year in 1981, and the bargaining agreements reached without strikes in the airlines, railroads, longshoring and maritime industries, and the postal service.

Two-fifths of the workers on strike in 1981 and half of the idleness were due to 14 disputes involving 10,000 workers or more (table 3). The two largest disputes idled 204,000 bituminous coal workers nationwide for more than 2 months and accounted for 8.3 million days of idleness--one-third of the total for the year.

The numbers of strikes, workers involved, and days idle were generally higher in the second quarter of the year than in other months. Idleness peaked in May at 5.3 million days when coal strikes and four large construction strikes were in progress. Strike activity was lowest in the first and last 2 months of the year (table 2).

Tables 4 through 7 provide information on work stoppages by industry group, major issue, size, and duration.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

> Because of budget reductions, the present work stoppage series ends with this release. The Bureau of Labor Statistics will continue to collect data on stoppages involving 1,000 workers or more and will publish them in the monthly periodical, Current Wage Developments, beginning with the February 1982 issue, which will contain data for January 1982.

Table 1. Work stoppages in the United States, 1947-81 (1)

(Workers and days idle in thousands)

Year	Work stoppages	Workers involved	Days idle	
	Number	Number	Number	Percent of estimated available working time (2)
1947	3,693	2,170	34,600	0.30
1948	3,419	1,960	34,100	.28
1949	3,606	3,030	50.500	.44
1950	4,843	2,410	38,800	.33
1951	4,737	2,220	22,900	.18
1952	5,117	3,540	59,100	.48
1953	5,091	2,400	28,300	.22
1954	3,468	1,530	22,600	.18
1955	4,320	2,650	28,200	.22
1956	3,825	1,900	33,100	.24
1957	3,673	1,390	16,500	.12
1958	3,694	2,060	23,900	.18
1959	3,708	1,880	69,000	.50
1960	3,333	1,320	19,100	.14
1961	3,367	1,450	16,300	.11
1962	3,614	1,230	18,600	.13
1963	3,362	941	16,100	.11
1964	3,655	1,640	22,900	.15
1965	3,963	1,550	23,300	.15
1966	4,405	1,960	25,400	.15
1967	4,595	2,870	42,100	.25
1968	5,045	2,649	49,018	.28
1969	5,700	2,481	42,869	.24
1970	5,716	3,305	66,414	.37
1971	5,138	3,280	47,589	.26
1972	5,010	1,714	27,066	.15
1973	5,353	2,251	27,948	.14
1974	6,074	2,778	47,991	.24
1975	5,031	1,746	31,217	.16
1976	5,648	2,420	37,859	.19
1977	5,506	2,040	35,822	.17
1978	4,230	1,623	36,922	.17
1979	4,827	1,727	34,754	.15
1980	3,855	1,366	33,289	.14
1981 (3)	2,577	1,082	24,670	.11

(1) The number of stoppages and workers relate to stoppages that began in the year. Days of idleness include all stoppages in effect. Workers are counted more than once if they were involved in more than one stoppage during the year.

Available information for earlier periods appears in the Handbook of Labor Statisticis, 1975 Reference Edition, BLS Bulletin 1865 (1975), tables 159-64. For a discussion of the procedures involved in the collection and compilation of work stoppage statistics, see BLS Handbook of Methods for Surveys and Studies, BLS Bulletin 1910 (1976), Chapter 27.

(2) Agricultural and government employees are included in the total employed and total working time; private household, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded. An explanation of the measurement of idleness as a percentage of the total time worked is found in "Total Economy Measure of Strike Idleness," Monthly Labor Review, October 1968.

(3) Preliminary.

Table 2. Work stoppages by month, 1980-81

(Workers and days idle in thousands)

Month	Work stoppages	Workers involved	Days idle	
	Number	Number	Number	Percent of estimated available working time
1980				
January	295	171.4	3,205.7	0.16
February	320	76.0	3,356.8	.18
March	319	84.0	3,118.8	.16
April	347	100.2	2,501.3	.12
May	379	124.3	2,262.4	.12
June	385	177.5	2,726.2	.14
July	400	230.4	4,028.0	.20
August	360	88.7	3,314.9	.17
September	436	153.2	3,576.4	.18
October	349	89.8	2,530.0	.12
November	205	52.8	1,440.0	.09
December	90	19.0	1,228.2	.06
1981p				
January	187	38.8	942.4	.05
February	213	41.5	769.9	.04
March	285	243.7	1,697.5	.08
April	286	80.3	4,884.5	.24
May	301	123.7	5,307.6	.28
June	302	241.0	3,521.1	.17
July	286	120.5	2,472.6	.12
August	211	68.6	1,704.3	.09
September	225	58.5	1,479.3	.08
October	166	36.0	1,207.9	.06
November	82	21.0	395.2	.02
December	33	8.2	287.6	.01

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

p=preliminary.

Table 3. Work stoppages involving 10,000 workers or more beginning in 1981

Company, location and union (1)	Began	Ended	Workers involved (2)	Days idle (2)
Bituminous Coal Industry Interstate (UMW-Ind.)	3/27	6/6	146,000	7,235,400 (3)
Association of Bituminous Coal Contractors Interstate (UMW-Ind.)	3/27	6/24	57,800	1,100,300 (3)
Burlington Northern Railroad, Interstate (BRC)	6/26	6/26	57,000	57,000
Construction Industry Chicago, Ill. (IUOE)	7/20	9/15	23,000	943,000
Construction Industry Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn. (BSOIW & others)	5/1	6/15	21,000	396,100
Board of Education Philadelphia, Pa. (AFT)	9/8	10/27	21,000	756,000
Construction Industry Washington, D.C. & vicinity (IUOE, CJA)	5/1	5/4	18,000	36,000
Bituminous Coal Industry Illinois (UMW-Ind.)	8/19	8/19	14,500	14,500
State of Minnesota Statewide (AFSCME)	7/20	8/11	14,400	244,800
Weyerhaeuser Company North Bend, Ore. (IWA)	6/18	7/8	13,800	39,500 (3)
Construction Industry Colorado, Statewide 15 building tr. unions	5/1	6/28	12,200	363,000 (3)
U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration Interstate (PATCO)	8/3	10/22	12,000	651,800 (3)
Construction Industry Western Tenn. (CJA, PAT, LIUNA, OPCM, IBT-Ind.)	5/1	6/22	10,700	328,500 (3)
Construction Industry Northern Calif. (CJA)	6/17	6/21	10,000	50,000
Total, 14 stoppages			431,400	12,216,000

(1) The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).

(2) Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

(3) Staggered idleness.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

TABLE 4A. WORK STOPPAGES BY INDUSTRY GROUP, 1980
(WORKERS AND DAYS IDLE IN THOUSANDS)

INDUSTRY GROUP	STOPPAGES		WORKERS INVOLVED		DAYS OF IDLENESS
	BEGINNING IN PERIOD	IN EFFECT DURING PERIOD	BEGINNING IN PERIOD	IN EFFECT DURING PERIOD	
ALL INDUSTRIES	1/3,885	4,154	1,366.3	1,446.9	33,288.5
MANUFACTURING	1/1,809	1,970	471.8	535.4	18,510.6
ORDNANCE AND ACCESSORIES	-	-	-	-	-
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS	155	171	32.8	38.2	810.3
TOBACCO MANUFACTURES	-	-	-	-	-
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS	33	36	5.5	6.6	165.1
APPAREL, ETC. 2/	37	41	2.8	3.2	61.6
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS, EXCEPT FURNITURE	70	77	9.8	11.0	419.5
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	60	63	15.2	15.4	310.0
PAPER AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	68	75	18.4	21.0	634.3
PRINTING, PUBLISHING, AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES	33	38	8.0	8.2	131.9
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	89	102	10.7	12.0	469.3
PETROLEUM REFINING AND RELATED INDUSTRIES	19	23	64.8	65.3	3,763.5
RUBBER AND MISCELLANEOUS PLASTICS PRODUCTS	61	67	8.6	9.1	241.9
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS	7	8	3.1	3.2	41.8
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS	118	125	15.0	15.5	359.1
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES	175	190	60.4	67.2	3,103.7
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS 3/	280	304	48.9	52.4	1,400.3
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	280	298	62.2	78.6	2,759.1
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES	140	151	45.2	47.9	753.4
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	114	128	48.6	68.1	2,679.2
INSTRUMENTS, ETC. 4/	29	29	6.0	6.0	202.1
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	42	48	5.8	6.4	204.6
NONMANUFACTURING	1/2,079	2,188	894.5	911.5	14,777.9
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	19	23	7.9	8.6	107.6
MINING	296	299	98.1	98.2	594.9
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	287	288	320.4	320.4	4,752.5
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	243	274	95.7	99.9	1,740.7
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	411	452	61.1	65.0	1,402.7
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	25	26	2.2	2.2	54.7
SERVICES	262	290	85.6	88.6	3,776.8
GOVERNMENT 5/	536	537	223.6	228.6	2,347.8

1/ THE NUMBER OF STOPPAGES REPORTED FOR A MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP OR DIVISION MAY NOT EQUAL THE SUM OF ITS COMPONENTS BECAUSE INDIVIDUAL STOPPAGES OCCURRING IN 2 OR MORE GROUPS HAVE BEEN COUNTED IN EACH. WORKERS INVOLVED AND DAYS IDLE HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED AMONG THE RESPECTIVE GROUPS.

2/ INCLUDES OTHER FINISHED PRODUCTS MADE FROM FABRICS AND SIMILAR MATERIALS.

3/ EXCLUDES ORDNANCE, MACHINERY, AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT.

4/ INCLUDES PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS; PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS; WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

5/ THE SITUATIONS REPORTED HERE HAVE, FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES, BEEN DEEMED TO FALL WITHIN THE BUREAU'S DEFINITION OF A WORK STOPPAGE. THIS DECISION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A LEGAL DETERMINATION THAT A WORK STOPPAGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN VIOLATION OF ANY LAW OR PUBLIC POLICY.

- DENOTES ZERO

NOTE: BECAUSE OF ROUNDING, SUMS OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS MAY NOT EQUAL TOTALS.

TABLE 4B. WORK STOPPAGES BY INDUSTRY GROUP, 1981p
(WORKERS AND DAYS IDLE IN THOUSANDS)

INDUSTRY GROUP	STOPPAGES		WORKERS INVOLVED		DAYS OF IDLENESS
	BEGINNING IN PERIOD	IN EFFECT DURING PERIOD	BEGINNING IN PERIOD	IN EFFECT DURING PERIOD	
ALL INDUSTRIES	1/2,577	2,794	1,081.8	1,130.8	24,669.9
MANUFACTURING	1/1,185	1,308	256.3	278.3	5,606.3
ORDNANCE AND ACCESSORIES	-	-	-	-	-
FOOD AND KINDRED PRODUCTS	108	117	13.9	15.3	365.5
TOBACCO MANUFACTURES	-	-	-	-	-
TEXTILE MILL PRODUCTS	16	18	2.5	2.6	54.4
APPAREL, ETC. 2/	24	28	6.3	6.5	84.6
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS, EXCEPT FURNITURE	27	30	16.8	16.9	101.0
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES	46	48	4.2	4.3	90.3
PAPER AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	48	54	9.4	10.5	241.3
PRINTING, PUBLISHING, AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES	26	30	1.7	2.1	138.5
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS	58	66	13.9	15.2	354.5
PETROLEUM REFINING AND RELATED INDUSTRIES	13	13	2.0	2.0	24.9
RUBBER AND MISCELLANEOUS PLASTICS PRODUCTS	37	42	3.2	3.6	104.4
LEATHER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS	12	12	3.0	3.0	17.8
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS	71	72	10.9	11.0	221.9
PRIMARY METAL INDUSTRIES	113	139	22.7	26.9	772.0
FABRICATED METAL PRODUCTS 3/	202	218	26.9	29.4	695.9
MACHINERY, EXCEPT ELECTRICAL	179	198	42.9	46.6	823.8
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES	106	112	41.2	42.6	565.6
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	64	74	30.5	35.1	840.6
INSTRUMENTS, ETC. 4/	16	17	2.3	2.7	75.8
MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	19	20	2.0	2.1	33.5
NONMANUFACTURING	1/1,393	1,487	825.5	852.5	19,063.6
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND FISHERIES	10	10	1.0	1.0	30.0
MINING	204	207	302.2	303.7	9,207.9
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	240	244	212.1	212.8	4,483.3
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION, ELECTRIC, GAS, AND SANITARY SERVICES	183	207	86.2	91.3	557.0
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE	251	278	48.4	50.4	690.0
FINANCE, INSURANCE, AND REAL ESTATE	15	19	1.4	2.5	101.0
SERVICES	190	210	42.9	55.7	1,150.0
GOVERNMENT 5/	300	312	131.3	135.1	2,844.3

1/ THE NUMBER OF STOPPAGES REPORTED FOR A MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP OR DIVISION MAY NOT EQUAL THE SUM OF ITS COMPONENTS BECAUSE INDIVIDUAL STOPPAGES OCCURRING IN 2 OR MORE GROUPS HAVE BEEN COUNTED IN EACH. WORKERS INVOLVED AND DAYS IDLE HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED AMONG THE RESPECTIVE GROUPS.

2/ INCLUDES OTHER FINISHED PRODUCTS MADE FROM FABRICS AND SIMILAR MATERIALS.

3/ EXCLUDES ORDNANCE, MACHINERY, AND TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT.

4/ INCLUDES PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND CONTROLLING INSTRUMENTS; PHOTOGRAPHIC AND OPTICAL GOODS; WATCHES AND CLOCKS.

5/ THE SITUATIONS REPORTED HERE HAVE, FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES, BEEN DEEMED TO FALL WITHIN THE BUREAU'S DEFINITION OF A WORK STOPPAGE. THIS DECISION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A LEGAL DETERMINATION THAT A WORK STOPPAGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN VIOLATION OF ANY LAW OR PUBLIC POLICY.

- DENOTES ZERO

NOTE: BECAUSE OF ROUNDING, SUMS OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS MAY NOT EQUAL TOTALS.

p = preliminary

TABLE 5. WORK STOPPAGES BY MAJOR ISSUE, 1980-81
(WORKERS AND DAYS IDLE IN THOUSANDS)

MAJOR ISSUE	STOPPAGES		WORKERS INVOLVED		DAYS OF IDLENESS
	BEGINNING IN PERIOD	IN EFFECT DURING PERIOD	BEGINNING IN PERIOD	IN EFFECT DURING PERIOD	
1980					
ALL ISSUES	3,885	4,154	1,366.3	1,446.9	33,288.5
GENERAL WAGE CHANGES	2,601	2,782	852.6	890.5	22,020.2
SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS	79	80	15.4	15.4	294.4
WAGE ADJUSTMENTS	52	56	42.9	43.1	2,361.1
HOURS OF WORK	9	9	.9	.9	14.0
OTHER CONTRACTURAL MATTERS	204	229	35.1	36.6	875.7
UNION ORGANIZATION AND SECURITY	205	239	34.9	37.6	672.6
JOB SECURITY	202	209	201.5	203.6	3,497.6
PLANT ADMINISTRATION	383	395	141.8	177.5	3,327.1
OTHER WORKING CONDITIONS	55	58	14.4	14.8	99.2
INTERUNION OR INTRAUNION MATTERS	65	66	23.9	23.9	79.0
NOT REPORTED	30	31	3.0	3.0	47.6
1981p					
ALL ISSUES 1/	2,577	2,794	1,081.8	1,130.8	24,669.9
GENERAL WAGE CHANGES	1,442	1,581	661.1	689.7	18,684.0
SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS	43	49	27.6	28.5	324.2
WAGE ADJUSTMENTS	27	30	3.0	12.1	142.5
HOURS OF WORK	6	6	.4	.4	4.7
OTHER CONTRACTURAL MATTERS	101	114	24.9	27.3	768.9
UNION ORGANIZATION AND SECURITY	139	163	12.6	13.8	314.1
JOB SECURITY	117	141	110.8	116.6	1,573.1
PLANT ADMINISTRATION	259	264	91.0	91.8	547.5
OTHER WORKING CONDITIONS	25	26	10.4	10.6	71.3
INTERUNION OR INTRAUNION MATTERS	27	27	7.9	7.9	23.3
NOT REPORTED	5	7	.2	.2	2.3

1/ INCLUDES 386 STOPPAGES FOR WHICH NO DATA WERE AVAILABLE.

NOTE: BECAUSE OF ROUNDING, SUMS OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS MAY NOT EQUAL TOTALS.

p = preliminary

TABLE 6. WORK STOPPAGES BY SIZE, 1980-81
(WORKERS AND DAYS IDLE IN THOUSANDS)

SIZE (NUMBER OF WORKERS INVOLVED)	STOPPAGES		WORKERS INVOLVED IN STOPPAGES		DAYS OF IDLENESS
	BEGINNING IN PERIOD	IN EFFECT DURING PERIOD	BEGINNING IN PERIOD	IN EFFECT DURING PERIOD	
1980					
ALL WORKERS	3,885	4,154	1,366.3	1,446.9	33,288.5
6 AND UNDER 20	507	554	6.3	6.9	178.9
20 AND UNDER 100	1,572	1,692	80.5	86.5	2,193.1
100 AND UNDER 250	893	956	141.0	150.7	3,171.0
250 AND UNDER 500	451	472	157.9	165.6	3,441.0
500 AND UNDER 1000	275	282	185.4	190.4	3,460.5
1000 AND UNDER 5000	156	165	295.5	308.3	5,643.3
5000 AND UNDER 10,000	17	18	113.2	118.2	2,944.3
10,000 AND OVER	14	15	386.6	420.4	12,256.3
1981p					
ALL WORKERS	**2,577**	**2,794**	**1,081.8**	**1,130.8**	**24,669.9**
6 AND UNDER 20	343	368	4.1	4.4	111.4
20 AND UNDER 100	1,076	1,177	55.1	60.6	1,420.4
100 AND UNDER 250	582	634	89.4	97.7	2,097.2
250 AND UNDER 500	269	286	94.1	100.4	2,026.5
500 AND UNDER 1000	160	176	106.5	117.7	1,918.0
1000 AND UNDER 5000	120	125	214.0	222.6	3,656.7
5000 AND UNDER 10,000	13	14	87.1	96.1	1,223.6
10,000 AND OVER	14	14	431.4	431.4	12,216.0

NOTE: BECAUSE OF ROUNDING, SUMS OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS MAY NOT EQUAL TOTALS.

p = preliminary

TABLE 7. WORK STOPPAGES BY DURATION, 1980-81 1/
(WORKERS AND DAYS IDLE IN THOUSANDS)

DURATION	STOPPAGES ENDING IN PERIOD		
	NUMBER	WORKERS INVOLVED	DAYS IDLE
1980			
ALL DURATIONS	3,939	1,398.3	33,530.3
1 DAY	324	82.3	82.3
2 TO 3 DAYS	325	133.5	273.9
4 TO 6 DAYS	369	152.8	587.4
7 TO 14 DAYS	741	290.0	2,250.2
15 TO 29 DAYS	820	256.0	3,677.1
30 TO 59 DAYS	681	201.4	5,343.3
60 TO 89 DAYS	287	86.0	4,401.6
90 DAYS AND OVER	392	196.3	16,914.6
1981p			
ALL DURATIONS	**2,751**	**1,124.7**	**27,219.7**
1 DAY	195	128.6	128.6
2 TO 3 DAYS	246	75.2	171.8
4 TO 6 DAYS	255	98.2	305.6
7 TO 14 DAYS	530	136.5	921.2
15 TO 29 DAYS	483	152.7	2,046.5
30 TO 59 DAYS	582	194.0	5,722.1
60 TO 89 DAYS	184	206.5	9,934.9
90 DAYS AND OVER	276	133.0	7,988.9

1/ TOTALS IN THIS TABLE DIFFER FROM THOSE IN PRECEDING TABLES BECAUSE THESE STOPPAGES ENDED DURING THE YEAR, AND THUS INCLUDE IDLENESS OCCURRING IN PRIOR YEARS.

NOTE: BECAUSE OF ROUNDING, SUMS OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS MAY NOT EQUAL TOTALS.

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USDL: 81-587

Jane Gelman (202) 523-1091
Kathryn Hoyle (202) 523-1913

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Wednesday, December 30, 1981

WORK STOPPAGES: NOVEMBER 1981

Strike activity in November was lower than in any other month of 1981 and in any November for the past 12 years, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. Idleness due to strikes fell to 422,000 days in November. No major stoppages involving at least 5,000 workers began during the month. Idleness as a proportion of estimated available working time also fell in November to 0.02 percent (less than one day idle per thousand) from 0.06 percent in October. Stoppages beginning in November dropped to 200 from 281 in October, and workers involved dropped to 23,000 from 25,000 .

All strike activity measures during the first 11 months of 1981 were the lowest in many years. The 3,719 stoppages beginning in the period were the fewest since 1965, while the 1.1 million workers involved were the fewest since 1963.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods, to November 1981

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month or year	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 11 months						
1970......	5,492	5,671	2,849	3,048	63,225	.38
1971......	4,919	5,150	3,234	3,319	44,480	.27
1972......	4,852	5,068	1,678	1,793	26,049	.15
1973......	5,144	5,305	2,160	2,225	24,813	.14
1974......	5,891	6,085	2,674	2,737	45,312	.25
1975......	4,792	5,033	1,660	1,705	29,383	.16
1976......	5,400	5,674	2,345	2,404	36,400	.20
1977......	5,373	5,638	1,840	1,894	30,792	.16
1978......	4,072	4,313	1,569	1,802	35,545	.17
1979......	4,678	4,897	1,682	1,756	32,335	.15
1980	3,795	4,064	1,347	1,428	32,061	.15
1981 (1)..	3,719	3,763	1,142	1,161	24,407	.11
November						
1970......	340	695	84	552	7,798	.54
1971......	315	562	235	453	5,034	.33
1972......	327	595	85	202	1,351	.08
1973......	350	671	230	351	3,026	.18
1974......	353	742	251	352	3,807	.24
1975......	300	656	63	143	1,737	.11
1976......	452	861	201	326	2,391	.14
1977......	335	719	80	233	3,158	.18
1978......	268	594	64	156	1,690	.09
1979......	272	657	91	225	3,198	.17
1980						
January...	295	564	171	252	3,206	.16
February..	320	569	76	256	3,357	.18
March.....	319	585	84	224	3,119	.16
April.....	347	642	100	214	2,501	.12
May.......	379	709	124	183	2,262	.12
June......	385	747	178	245	2,726	.14
July......	400	776	230	337	4,028	.20
August....	360	775	88	231	3,315	.17
September.	436	813	153	289	3,576	.18
October...	349	722	90	224	2,530	.12
November..	205	532	53	126	1,440	.09
December..	90	380	19	77	1,228	.06
1981 (1)						
January...	253	297	50	68	614	.03
February..	347	517	90	136	647	.04
March.....	314	545	271	339	1,419	.07
April.....	371	560	101	273	5,117	.25
May.......	473	688	152	383	5,857	.31
June......	421	682	186	499	3,891	.19
July......	391	659	127	190	2,015	.10
August....	310	596	72	148	1,775	.09
September.	358	565	47	109	1,468	.07
October...	281	517	25	83	1,182	.06
November..	200	385	23	27	422	.02

(1) Preliminary.

Data in this table cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idled as a result of material or service shortages.

News United States Department of Labor

Office of Information Washington, D.C. 20210

Marcy Jacobs (202) 523-1091
Kathryn Hoyle (202) 523-1913

USDL: 81- 544

FOR RELEASE: 2:00 P.M. E.S.T.
Monday, November 30, 1981

WORK STOPPAGES: October 1981

All major work stoppage indicators fell to their lowest October levels in nearly 2 decades, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The number of stoppages beginning in October was almost 20 percent below the October 1980 level. The 83,000 workers involved in strikes during the month was about one-third the number involved during October 1980 (table 1). Idleness as a percent of estimated available working time fell to 0.06 percent (less than 1 day idle per thousand), half the October 1980 rate.

Strike indicators for the first 10 months of 1981 also were generally lower than they have been in well over a decade. The low levels of strike activity partly reflect the light bargaining schedule in 1981 and also the lack of major stoppages in railroads, longshoring and maritime, and in the postal service, in which bargaining took place during the year.

Three stoppages of 5,000 workers or more were in progress in October 1981 and accounted for 48 percent of all workers involved in stoppages and 55 percent of all days idle during the month (table 2). The two largest stoppages continued from prior months, but all three ended in October.

Detailed work stoppage data for the first 9 monthsof 1980 and 1981 are presented in tables 3 through 6. Table 3 provides an industrial distribution of strike activity; table 4 presents strike activity measures by major issue; table 5 shows strike activity measures by size, and table 6, by duration.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods, to October 1981

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month or year	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 10 months						
1970......	5,152	5,331	2,766	2,965	55,427	.36
1971......	4,604	4,835	2,999	3,085	39,466	.26
1972......	4,525	4,741	1,594	1,708	24,698	.16
1973......	4,794	4,955	1,930	1,994	22,787	.14
1974......	5,538	5,732	2,423	2,486	41,504	.25
1975......	4,492	4,733	1,597	1,643	27,647	.16
1976......	4,948	5,222	2,145	2,204	34,007	.20
1977......	5,038	5,303	1,760	1.814	27,635	.16
1978......	3,804	4,045	1,505	1,738	33,855	.18
1979......	4,406	4,625	1,591	1,665	29,137	.15
1980	3,590	3,859	1,295	1,375	30,621	.16
1981 (1)..	3,519	3,563	1,120	1,138	23.985	.12
October						
1970......	448	881	231	754	11,574	.73
1971......	304	553	246	326	5,511	.36
1972......	395	665	173	277	1,342	.09
1973......	523	885	194	297	2,484	.15
1974......	513	911	146	267	2,854	.17
1975......	426	823	143	246	2,327	.14
1976......	559	1,024	152	429	4,348	.28
1977......	408	822	157	290	3,347	.21
1978......	370	751	117	221	2,350	.13
1979......	439	872	208	312	3,369	.17
1980						
January...	295	564	171	252	3,206	.16
February..	320	569	76	256	3,357	.18
March.....	319	585	84	224	3,119	.16
April.....	347	642	100	214	2,501	.12
May.......	379	709	124	183	2,262	.12
June......	385	747	178	245	2,726	.14
July......	400	776	230	337	4,028	.20
August....	360	775	88	231	3,315	.17
September.	436	813	153	289	3,576	.18
October...	349	722	90	224	2,530	.12
November..	205	532	53	126	1,440	.09
December..	90	380	19	77	1,228	.06
1981 (1)						
January...	253	297	50	68	614	.03
February..	347	517	90	136	647	.04
March.....	314	545	271	339	1,419	.07
April.....	371	560	101	273	5,117	.25
May.......	473	688	152	383	5,857	.31
June......	421	682	186	499	3,891	.19
July......	391	659	127	190	2,015	.10
August	310	596	72	148	1,775	.09
September.	358	565	47	109	1,468	.07
October...	231	517	25	83	1,182	.06

(1) Preliminary.

Data in this table cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idled as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, October 1981

Company, location and union (1)	Began	Ended	Workers involved (2)	Days idle (2)
Board of Education Philadelphia, Pa. (AFT)	9/8	10/27	23,000	414,000
U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration Nationwide (PATCO)	8/3	10/22	11,500 (3)	172,500
National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. (IAM, CJA, PAT), San Diego, Calif.	10/9	10/28	5,100	66,300
Total, 3 stoppages			39,600	652,800

(1) The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).

(2) Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

(3) On August 3, President Reagan warned the controllers to return to work by 3 p.m. on August 5 or face dismissal. About 1,000 returned. By August 17, dismissal notices had been sent to nearly all of the 12,000 strikers, giving them 7 days to respond. Almost all of the strikers have responded and the FAA has issued written decisions in most of these cases. These decisions are subject to appeal.

On October 22, the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) voted to decertify PATCO as bargaining agent for the air traffic controllers. On October 27, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the FLRA.

Table 3. Percent distribution of work stoppage measures by industry, first 9 months, 1980-1981 (1)

	Work stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
Industry group	1980	1981p	1980	1981p	1980	1981p
All industries (2)	100	100	100	100	100	100
Manufacturing (2)	46	45	31	23	53	22
Ordnance and accessories	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food and kindred products	4	4	2	1	2	1
Tobacco manufactures	-	-	-	-	-	-
Textile mill products	1	1	(3)	(3)	1	(3)
Apparel (4)	1	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Lumber and wood products, except furniture	2	1	1	2	1	(3)
Furniture and fixtures	2	2	1	(3)	1	(3)
Paper and allied products	2	2	1	1	2	1
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	1	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Chemicals and allied products	2	2	1	1	1	2
Petroleum refining and related industries	1	(3)	5	(3)	13	(3)
Rubber and miscellaneous plastics products	2	1	1	(3)	1	1
Leather and leather products	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Stone, clay, and glass products	3	3	1	1	1	1
Primary metal industries	4	4	2	2	5	3
Fabricated metal products (5)	7	8	3	3	4	3
Machinery, except electrical	7	7	4	4	8	3
Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies	3	4	3	4	2	3
Transportation equipment	3	2	3	2	8	3
Instruments, etc. (6)	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	1	1	(3)	(3)	1	(3)
Nonmanufacturing (2)	54	55	69	77	47	78
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	(3)	(3)	1	(3)	(3)	(3)
Mining	7	7	8	27	5	43
Contract construction	8	11	26	25	16	16
Transportation, communication, electric, gas, and sanitary services	6	8	7	3	5	2
Wholesale and retail trade	11	9	4	4	4	2
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	1
Services	7	8	6	4	10	4
Government (7)	14	11	16	14	7	9

See footnotes on following page.

(1) The numbers of stoppages and workers involved relate to disputes that began in the period; days of idleness relates to all stoppages in effect during the period.

(2) The proportion of stoppages reported for a division may not equal the sum of its components because individual stoppages occurring in two or more groups have been counted in each. Workers and days idle have been allocated among the respective groups.

(3) Less than 0.5 percent.

(4) Includes other finished products made from fabrics and similar materials.

(5) Excludes ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

(6) Includes professional, scientific, and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods; watches and clocks.

(7) Identification of a work stoppage by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is not a legal determination that the work stoppage has violated law or public policy.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Dash (-) denotes zero.

p=preliminary

Table 4. Percent distribution of work stoppage measures by major issue, first 9 months, 1980-1981 (1)

Major issue	Work stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1980	1981p	1980	1981p	1980	1981p
All issues	100	100	100	100	100	100
General wage changes	68	67	62	66	66	74
Supplementary benefits	2	2	1	4	1	2
Wage adjustments	1	2	3	1	6	2
Hours of work	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Other contractual matters	5	5	2	4	2	7
Union organization and security	5	6	3	2	2	3
Job security	5	5	16	5	11	7
Plant administration	10	11	10	14	11	6
Other working conditions	1	1	1	2	(2)	1
Interunion and intraunion matters	2	1	2	2	(2)	(2)

(1) The numbers of stoppages and workers involved relate to those disputes beginning during the period; days of idleness relate to all stoppages in effect during the period.
(2) Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.
p=preliminary.

Table 5. Percent distribution of work stoppage measures by size, first 9 months, 1980-1981 (1)

Number of workers involved	Work stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1980	1981p	1980	1981p	1980	1981
All stoppages	100	100	100	100	100	100
6-19	14	14	(2)	(2)	1	(2)
20-99	41	42	6	5	6	5
100-249	22	22	9	8	9	8
250-499	12	10	11	8	10	7
500-999	7	6	13	10	9	8
1,000-4,999	4	4	21	18	16	13
5,000-9,999	(2)	1	8	10	8	4
10,000 and over	(2)	1	32	40	42	53

(1) The numbers of stoppages and workers involved relate to those disputes beginning during the period; days of idleness relate to all stoppages in effect during the period.
(2) Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.
p=preliminary.

Table 6. Percent distribution of work stoppage measures by duration, first 9 months, 1980-1981

Number of days idle	Stoppages ending in period					
	Work stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1980	1981p	1980	1981p	1980	1981
All stoppages	100	100	100	100	100	100
1 day	8	6	6	6	(1)	(1)
2-3 days	8	3	10	8	1	2
4-6 days	10	8	12	10	2	2
7-14 days	19	19	23	14	8	5
15-29 days	21	20	19	24	12	14
30-59 days	16	23	14	12	16	13
60-89 days	7	6	4	21	10	40
90 days and over	9	8	13	6	51	24

(1) Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.
p=preliminary.

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USDL: 81-511

Jane Gelman (202) 523-1091
Charles Wallace (202) 523-1208
Kathryn Hoyle (202) 523-1913

FOR RELEASE: 2:00 P.M. E.S.T.
Thursday, October 29, 1981

WORK STOPPAGES: SEPTEMBER 1981

Work stoppage measures continued a general downward trend in September, with most strike indicators for the first 9 months of 1981 reaching the lowest levels in the past 12 years, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Idleness as a percent of estimated working time for September fell to 0.07 percent (less than 1 day idle per thousand) from 0.09 percent in August. This decline ran counter to the trend for the month, when work stoppage activity usually increases because of strikes in schools. In 1981, school strikes beginning in September were only at about a third of the 1980 level.

The low level of strike activity also extended to major stoppages (those involving 5,000 workers or more), of which there were only three in 1981 compared to six in 1980. Only one major stoppage ended in the month, a strike involving 21,000 construction workers in Chicago. A stoppage involving 23,000 Philadelphia teachers began on September 8 and continued into October.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Data on strikes by public employees in 1980 are now available in Work Stoppages in Government, 1980, BLS Bulletin 2110. Copies of the bulletin may be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price: $3.25; Stock No. 029-001-02630-7.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods, to September 1981

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month or year	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 9 months						
1970......	4,704	4,883	2,535	2,733	43,853	.32
1971......	4,300	4,531	2,754	2,839	33,936	.25
1972......	4,130	4,346	1,421	1,536	23,356	.17
1973......	4,271	4,432	1,736	1,801	20,303	.14
1974......	5,025	5,219	2,278	2,340	38,650	.26
1975......	4,066	4,307	1,453	1,499	25,320	.17
1976......	4,389	4,663	1,993	2,052	29,659	.19
1977......	4,630	4,895	1,603	1,657	24,288	.17
1978......	3,434	3,675	1,389	1,622	31,505	.19
1979......	3,967	4,186	1,383	1,458	25,768	.15
1980	3,241	3,510	1,205	1,285	28,091	.16
1981 (1)..	3,238	3,282	1,095	1,114	22,802	.13
September						
1970......	560	971	591	785	8,670	.57
1971......	352	670	111	330	3,230	.21
1972......	444	733	143	260	2,403	.16
1973......	541	883	269	368	2,954	.20
1974......	514	910	188	395	3,028	.19
1975......	495	907	217	372	3,684	.22
1976......	521	972	340	466	4,848	.28
1977......	485	923	152	278	3,085	.17
1978......	453	853	449	579	4,322	.24
1979......	474	909	152	254	2,802	.16
1980						
January...	295	564	171	252	3,206	.16
February..	320	569	76	256	3,357	.18
March.....	319	585	84	224	3,119	.16
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October...	349	722	90	224	2,530	.12
November..	205	532	53	126	1,440	.09
December..	90	380	19	77	1,228	.06
1981 (1)						
January...	253	297	50	68	614	.03
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July......	391	659	127	190	2,015	.10
August (2)	310	596	72	148	1,775	.09
September.	358	565	47	109	1,468	.07

(1) Preliminary.
(2) Revised.

Data in this table cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idled as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, September 1981

Company, location and union (1)	Began	Ended	Workers involved (2)	Days idle (2)
Board of Education Philadelphia, Pa. (AFT)	9/8	----	23,000	381,000
Construction industry Chicago, Ill. (IUOE)	7/20	9/15	21,000	210,000
U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration Nationwide (PATCO)	8/3	10/22	11,500 (3)	255,000 (4)
Total, 3 stoppages			55,500	832,500

(1) The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).

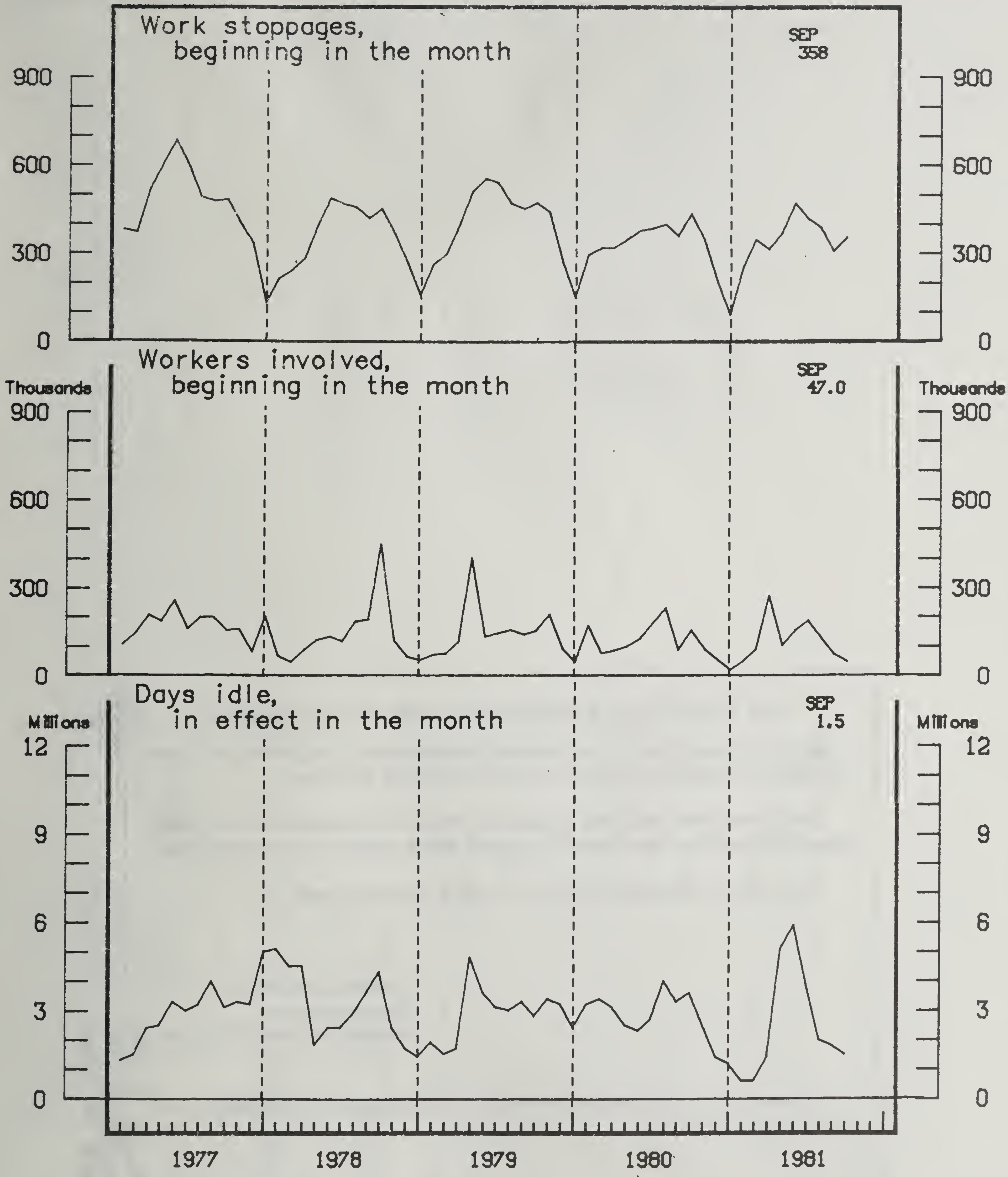
(2) Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

(3) On August 3, President Reagan warned the controllers to return to work by 3 p.m. on August 5 or face dismissal. About 1,000 returned. By August 17, dismissal notices had been sent to nearly all of the 12,000 strikers, giving them 7 days to respond. Almost all of the strikers have responded and the FAA has issued written decisions in most of these cases. These decisions are subject to appeal.

On October 22, the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) voted to decertify PATCO as bargaining agent for the air traffic controllers. On October 27, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the FLRA.

(4) Staggered idleness.

Chart 1. Number of stoppages, workers involved, and days idle, by month. 1977–81



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Jane Gelman (202) 523-1091
Kathryn Hoyle (202) 523-1913

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Wednesday, September 30, 1981

WORK STOPPAGES: AUGUST 1981

All monthly work stoppage measures continued to decline in August, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S.Department of Labor. Idleness as a proportion of estimated working time fell from 0.10 percent in July (1 day idle per thousand) to 0.07 percent in August, the lowest level for the month since 1943. Stoppages in effect during the month (596) and resulting idleness (1.4 million days) were the lowest August figures since 1964, while the estimated number of workers involved in these stoppages (86,000) was the lowest since 1938 (table 1).

In addition, all strike activity measures for the first 8 months of the year, except the number of stoppages, were lower than comparable periods since 1978, reflecting the light bargaining year in 1981.

Three-fourths of the workers on strike during August and three-fifths of the idleness were due to four disputes involving 5,000 workers or more (table 2). Two of these stoppages, involving construction workers in Chicago and air traffic controllers nationwide, accounted for nearly nine-tenths of the days of idleness resulting from large disputes and half of all idleness. For purposes of this release, the Air Traffic Controllers are considered to be active strikers pending a decision by the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six workers or more and lasting at least a shift or full day. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Estimates of labor organization membership, including earnings and other personal data, based on information tabulated from the May 1980 Current Population Survey, are now available in Earnings and Other Characteristics of Organized Workers, May 1980, BLS Bulletin 2105. Copies of the bulletin may be purchased from the U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price: $4.25; Stock No. 029-001-02620-0.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, August 1981

Company, location and union (1)	Began	Ended	Workers involved (2)	Days idle (2)
Construction industry Chicago, Ill. (IUOE)	7/20	----	21,000	441,000
Bituminous coal industry Illinois (UMW)	8/19	8/19	14,500	14,500
State of Minnesota Statewide (AFSCME)	7/20	8/10	14,400	86,400
U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration Nationwide (PATCO)	8/3	----	13,000 (3)	255,000 (4)
Total, 4 stoppages			62,900	796,900

(1) The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).

(2) Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

(3) On August 3, President Reagan warned the controllers to return to work by 3 p.m. on August 5 or face dismissal. About 1,000 returned. By August 17, dismissal notices had been sent to nearly all of the 12,000 strikers, giving them 7 days to respond. More than half of the strikers have responded and the FAA has issued written decisions in about 80 percent of these cases. These decisions are subject to appeal. For purposes of this release, the Air Traffic Controllers are considered to be active strikers pending a decision by the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

(4) Staggered idleness.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods, to August 1981

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month or year	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	In effect during month or year	
					Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 8 months						
1970......	4,144	4,323	1,944	2,142	35,184	.29
1971......	3,948	4,179	2,643	2,728	30,706	.25
1972......	3,686	3,902	1,278	1,393	20,953	.17
1973......	3,730	3,891	1,467	1,532	17,349	.13
1974......	4,511	4,705	2,090	2,153	35,623	.26
1975......	3,571	3,812	1,237	1,282	25,320	.19
1976......	3,868	4,142	1,653	1,712	24,813	.18
1977......	4,145	4,410	1,451	1,505	21,202	.15
1978......	2,981	3,222	939	1,172	27,183	.19
1979......	3,493	3,712	1,232	1,306	22,966	.15
1980	2,805	3,074	1,052	1,132	24,514	.16
1981 (1)..	2,880	2,924	1,026	1,044	20,948	.13
August						
1970......	527	950	127	341	3,852	.26
1971......	438	891	195	502	5,037	.32
1972......	485	790	168	270	2,840	.17
1973......	498	864	158	308	2,571	.14
1974......	509	1,057	254	572	5,882	.33
1975......	420	836	172	325	3,377	.20
1976......	480	937	171	410	4,557	.26
1977......	481	930	200	335	3,995	.21
1978......	421	844	191	316	3,628	.18
1979......	451	911	139	273	3,261	.16
1980 (2)						
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February..	320	569	76	256	3,357	.18
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December..	90	380	19	77	1,228	.06
1981 (1)						
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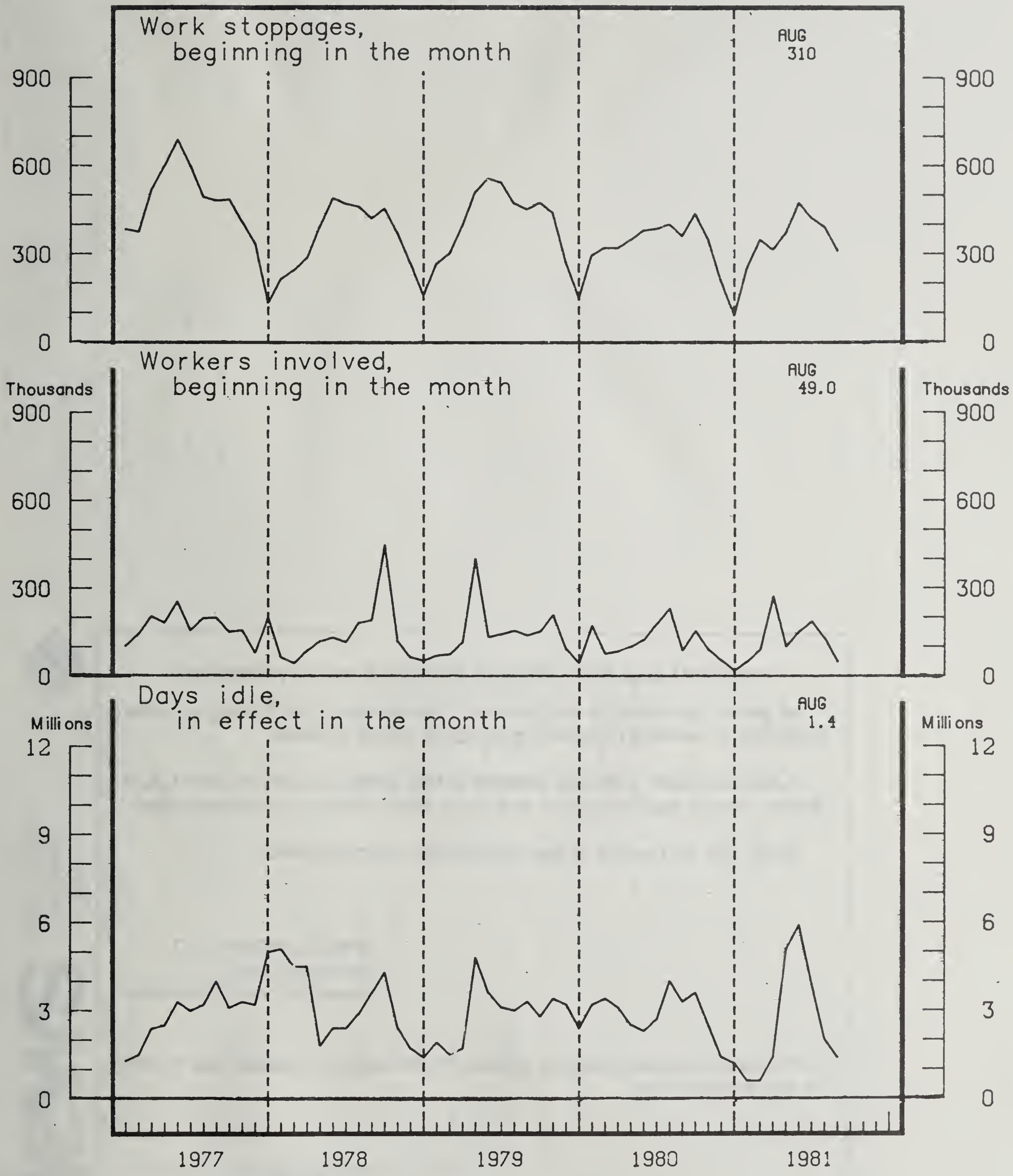
February..	347	517	90	136	647	.04
March.....	314	545	271	339	1,419	.07
April.....	371	560	101	273	5,117	.25
May.......	473	688	152	383	5,857	.31
June......	421	682	186	499	3,891	.19
July......	391	659	127	190	2,015	.10
August....	310	596	49	86	1,387	.07

(1) Preliminary.
(2) Revised.

Data in this table cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idled as a result of material or service shortages.

Chart 1. Number of stoppages, workers involved, and days idle, by month. 1977–81



1980–1981 PRELIMINARY.

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News United States Department of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

USDL: 81-423

Marcy J. Jacobs (202) 523-1091
Eugene H. Becker (202) 523-1858
Walter J. Larson (202) 523-1208

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Friday, August 28, 1981

WORK STOPPAGES, JULY 1981

All measures of work stoppages were lower in July than in June and were the lowest July indicators in 11 years, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Idleness as a proportion of estimated available working time, at 0.10 percent (1 day idle per thousand work days), was about one-half the idleness rate of June (table 1). Although only 23 fewer stoppages were in effect in July than in June, idleness decreased to 2.0 million days from 3.9 million and the number of workers involved decreased to 190,000 from 499,000. Strike indicators for the first 7 months of the year were among the lowest in the past decade.

The July declines were primarily the result of the terminaation of 12 of the 13 stoppages in effect in June, stoppages that involved at least 5,000 workers. Although five new strikes involving at least 5,000 workers began during July, they involved far fewer workers and days of idleness than the 12 stoppages that ended during June (table 2). Only two of the large stoppages in effect in July carried over into August--a strike by construction workers in Chicago involving 21,000 workers and a strike of State employees in Minnesota involving 14,400 workers.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods, to July 1981

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month or year	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 7 months						
1970......	3,617	3,796	1,816	2,015	31,332	.29
1971......	3,510	3,741	2,449	2,534	25,669	.24
1972......	3,201	3,417	1,110	1,225	18,113	.17
1973......	3,232	3,393	1,309	1,374	14,778	.13
1974......	4,002	4,196	1,840	1,902	29,741	.25
1975......	3,151	3,392	1,065	1,111	18,259	.16
1976......	3,388	3,662	1,482	1,541	20,255	.17
1977......	3,664	3,929	1,251	1,305	17,207	.14
1978......	2,560	2,801	748	981	23,555	.19
1979......	3,042	3,261	1,093	1,167	19,705	.15
1980......	2,506	2,778	973	1,053	20,656	.15
1981 (1)..	2,570	2,614	976	995	19,560	.14
July						
1970......	585	989	242	467	5,112	.32
1971......	499	938	748	938	7,895	.52
1972......	404	706	130	384	3,437	.23
1973......	509	860	208	324	2,996	.19
1974......	683	1,199	364	667	8,954	.51
1975......	518	899	231	382	4,465	.26
1976......	505	960	292	490	5,145	.30
1977......	493	946	199	307	3,212	.19
1978......	460	841	183	270	2,896	.17
1979......	471	966	155	264	3,001	.16
1980						
January...	304	576	170	250	3,222	.17
February..	332	594	77	248	3,131	.19
March.....	326	605	98	237	3,230	.16
April.....	357	649	98	218	2,579	.14
May.......	388	704	116	172	2,099	.10
June......	385	699	173	224	2,441	.13
July......	414	733	241	336	3,954	.21
August....	374	704	80	211	3,079	.15
September.	420	724	126	247	3,407	.20
October...	347	630	90	200	2,195	.11
November..	201	427	52	101	1,110	.06
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(1) Preliminary.

Data in this table cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idled as a result of material or service shortages.

News United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

USDL: 81-423

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FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Friday, August 28, 1981

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Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, July 1981

Company, location and union (1)	Began	Ended	Workers involved (2)	Days idle (2)
Construction industry Chicago, Ill. (IUOE)	7/20	----	21,000	210,000
Construction industry St. Paul, Minn. (CJA)	7/6	7/28	15,000	255,000
State of Minnesota Statewide (AFSCME)	7/20	----	14,400	144,000
State of Massachusetts Statewide (AFSCME)	7/10	7/13	12,000	32,000 (3)
Construction industry Boston, Mass. (CJA)	6/16	7/27	8,500	153,000
Georgia Power Co. (30 plants) Statewide (IBEW)	7/9	7/27	5,200	67,600
Total, 6 stoppages			76,100	861,600

(1) The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).

(2) Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

(3) Staggered idleness.

NOTE: The strike of 10,000 construction workers in Northern California shown in the June News Release ended on June 22 and accounted for 40,000 days of idleness; the strike by 9,200 construction workers in Colorado included fewer than 1,000 workers by June 28. The information on these strikes was received too late by the Bureau for inclusion in the June News Release.

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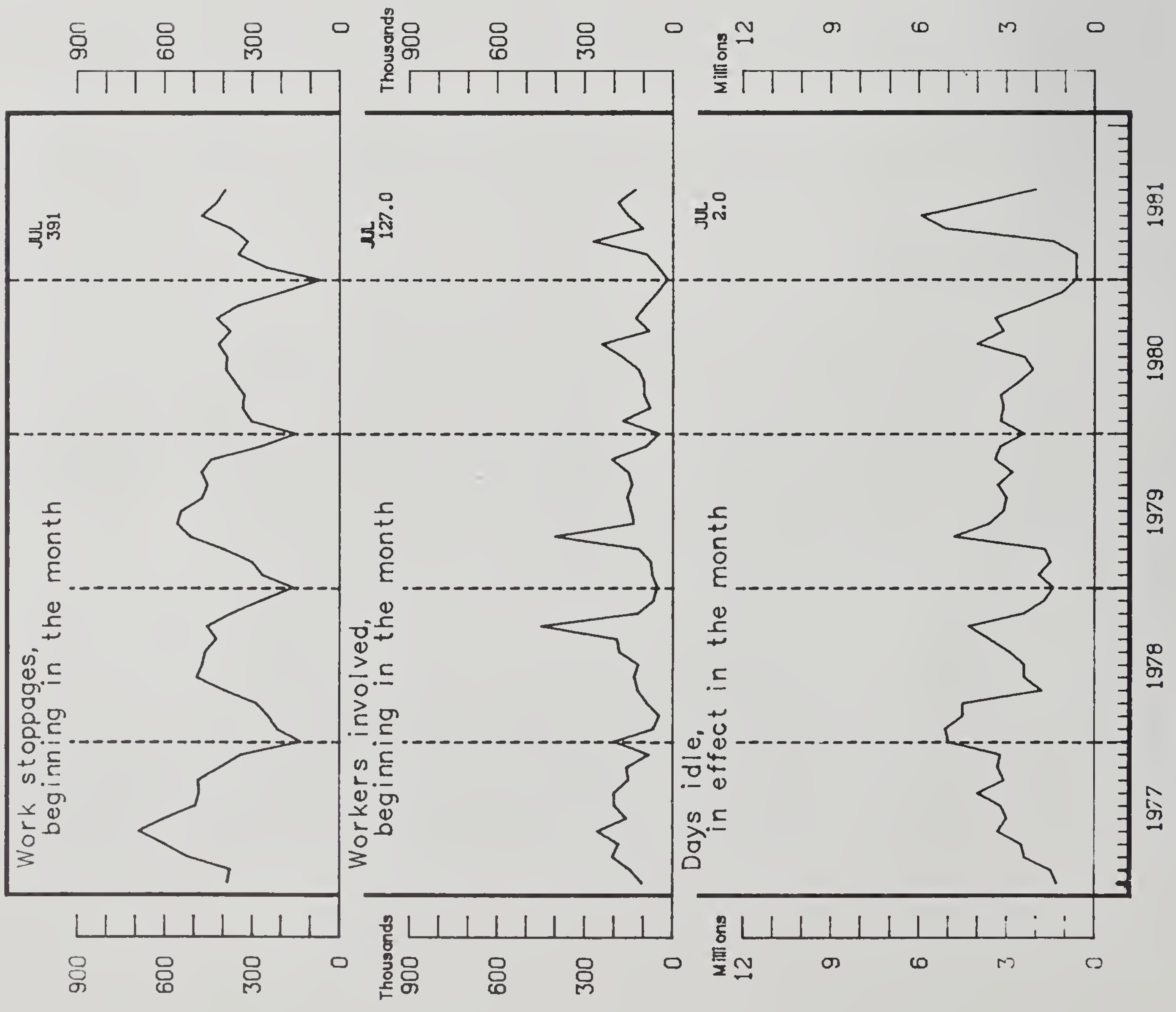

1980–1981 PRELIMINARY.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, July 1981

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Construction industry Chicago, Ill. (IUOE)	7/20	----	21,000	210,000
Construction industry St. Paul, Minn. (CJA)	7/6	7/28	15,000	255,000
State of Minnesota Statewide (AFSCME)	7/20	----	14,400	144,000
State of Massachusetts Statewide (AFSCME)	7/10	7/13	12,000	32,000 (3)
Construction industry Boston, Mass. (CJA)	6/16	7/27	8,500	153,000
Georgia Power Co. (30 plants) Statewide (IBEW)	7/9	7/27	5,200	67,600
Total, 6 stoppages			76,100	861,600

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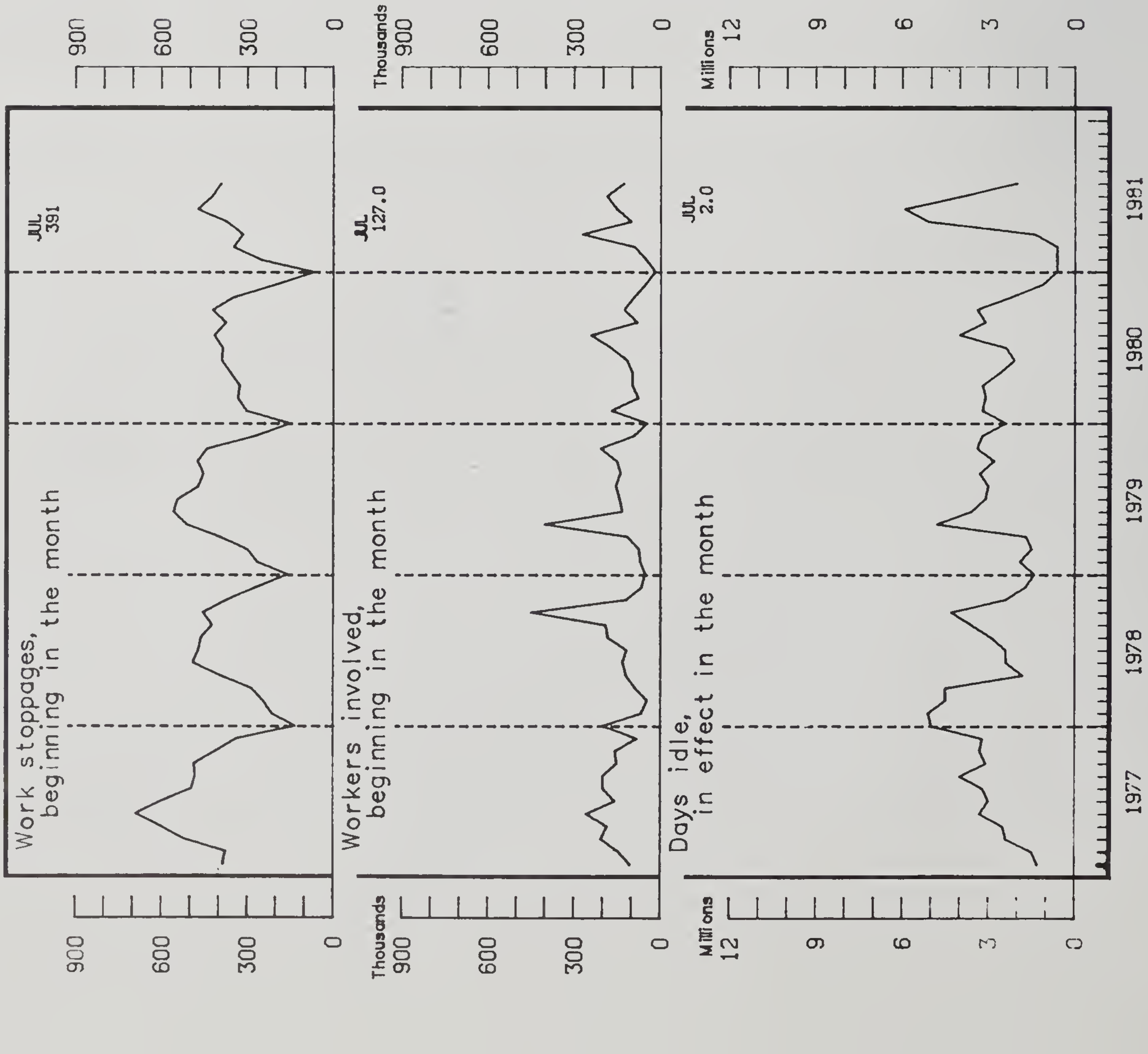

1980–1981 PRELIMINARY.

News United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

USDL: 81-373

Jane Gelman (202) 523-1091
Charles Wallace (202) 523-1208

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Wednesday, July 29, 1981

WORK STOPPAGES: JUNE 1981 AND A 6-MONTH SUMMARY

Idleness due to strikes fell to 3.9 million days in June from 5.9 million days in May, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. The over-the-month decline reflects settlement of the bituminous coal strike. Idleness as a proportion of estimated available working time also fell in June to 0.19 percent (1.9 days idle per thousand) from 0.31 percent in May. Stoppages beginning in June dropped to 421 from 473 in May (table 1).

Despite the declines from May, two of the three major measures of strike activity, workers involved and days idle, were at the highest June levels since 1976. More workers (499,000) were involved in stoppages during June than in any June in the last 10 years, except 1974.

There was an exceptionally large number (13) of major stoppages (those involving 5,000 workers or more) during June which accounted for three-fourths of all workers on strike and three-fifths of the idleness (table 2). The two stoppages in coal mining, although settled during the month, accounted for 59 percent of the workers involved in and 55 percent of the idleness attributed to major stoppages during the month. In addition, almost 20 percent of the workers involved in, and 39 percent of the idleness due to, the major stoppages were attributed to seven strikes in the construction industry.

Characteristics of work stoppages, first 6 months of 1981 compared with first 6 months of 1980

Most strike indicators for the first 6 months of the year were slightly higher than for the comparable period in 1980, except for the percent of estimated working time, which remained at 0.15 percent, and the estimated number of stoppages in effect during the period, which was slightly lower.

Stoppages were about evenly divided between manufacturing and nonmanufacturing in both 1980 and 1981 (table 3). The majority of workers involved in strikes were in nonmanufacturing during both years, with a higher proportion in 1981 than in 1980 because of the strikes in bituminous coal mining. But, most of the idleness in 1980 was in manufacturing because of strikes in petroleum refining, nonelectrical machinery, and transportation equipment, whereas 1981 idleness was largely in nonmanufacturing, because of the coal strikes.

As in past years, general wage changes accounted for the greatest proportions of stoppages (table 4). There were relatively more strikes over job security and plant administration than in 1980.

Most 1981 stoppages, like those in 1980, involved fewer than 100 workers (table 5). Stoppages in the 1,000 to 4,999 -worker range accounted for a fifth of all workers on strike and a tenth of the idleness. Stoppages involving at least 10,000 workers accounted for 39 percent of workers and 59 percent of idleness in 1981. In 1981, they generally were larger and lasted longer than in 1980.

Fifty-four percent of 1981 strikes fell in the 1-to-29-day range (table 6). These strikes involved half of the workers, but they accounted for only 16 percent of the idleness. Stoppages lasting at least 60 days, while relatively few, accounted for a disproportionately large share of workers involved (37 percent) and idleness (74 percent).

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 1. Work stoppage measures, selected periods, to June 1981

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
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	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month or year	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 6 months						
1970......	3,032	3,211	1,574	1,773	26,220	.29
1971......	3,011	3,242	1,701	1,786	17,775	.20
1972......	2,797	3,013	980	1,095	14,676	.16
1973......	2,723	2,884	1,101	1,165	11,782	.12
1974......	3,319	3,513	1,476	1,538	20,787	.21
1975......	2,633	2,874	834	880	13,795	.14
1976......	2,883	3,157	1,190	1,250	15,110	.14
1977......	3,171	3,436	1,052	1,106	13,995	.13
1978......	2,100	2,341	565	798	20,660	.19
1979......	2,571	2,790	938	1,012	16,704	.15
1980......	2,045	2,314	733	814	17,171	.15
1981 (1)..	2,179	2,223	850	868	17,546	.15
June						
1970......	657	1,060	288	538	5,846	.36
1971......	617	1,031	280	420	4,094	.26
1972......	419	818	311	413	3,606	.22
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Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, June 1981

Company, location and union (1)	Began	Ended	Workers involved (2)	Days idle (2)
Bituminous Coal Industry Interstate (UMW-Ind.)	3/27	6/6	160,000 (3)	800,000
Association of Bituminous Coal Contractors Interstate (UMW-Ind.)	3/27	6/24	60,000 (4)	457,200 (5)
Burlington Northern Railroad, Interstate (BRC)	6/26	6/26	57,000 (6)	57,000
Construction Industry Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn. (BAC, RWAW, SMW, CJA, OPCM, PAT, BSOIW)	5/1	6/15	20,000	220,000
Construction Industry Northern California (CJA)	6/17	---	10,000	100,000
Construction Industry Colorado, Statewide LIUNA, PPF, CJA, BAC, OPCM, BSOIW)	5/1	---	9,200 (7)	169,800 (5)
Construction Industry Western Tenn. (CJA, PAT, LIUNA, OPCM, IBT-Ind.)	5/1	6/23	9,200 (8)	156,400
Construction Industry Beaumont, Tx. (PAT, LIUNA, OPCM, IBT-Ind.)	4/1	6/11	9,000	81,000
Construction Industry Boston, Mass. (CJA)	6/16	---	8,500	93,500
State of New Hampshire Statewide (NHSEA-Ind.)	6/23	6/24	8,000	16,000
Construction Industry N.J., Statewide (CJA)	5/1	6/15	7,500	82,500
State of New Jersey 13 hospitals, Statewide (AFSCME)	6/22	6/25	7,000	26,600 (5)
Seattle Hotel and Restaurant Association, Seattle, Wash. (HREU)	6/2	6/12	5,000	45,000
Total, 13 stoppages			370,400	2,305,000

See footnotes on following page.

(1) The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).

(2) Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

(3) A second tentative agreement was reached on May 29 and approved by the UMW bargaining committee; rank and file miners ratified the agreement on June 6 and returned to work on June 8, ending their 72-day stoppage.

(4) Revised; 11,000 construction workers initiating the strike were joined by 49,000 coal miners who honored picket lines. Coal miners returned by June 17, when construction workers' tentative agreement was approved by the UMW Bargaining Council.

(5) Staggered idleness.

(6) Approximately 5,000 carmen initiated the strike; other workers observed picket lines.

(7) An additional 3,500 laborers settled and returned to work in May.

(8) Revised; approximately 800 laborers and carpenters settled on May 28.

Table 3. Percent distribution of work stoppage measures by industry, first 6 months, 1980-1981 (1)

Industry group	Work stoppages 1980	Work stoppages 1981p	Workers involved 1980	Workers involved 1981p	Days idle 1980	Days idle 1981p
All industries (2)	100	100	100	100	100	100
Manufacturing (2)	48	49	37	24	67	19
Ordnance and accessories	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food and kindred products	4	4	2	1	3	1
Tobacco manufactures	-	-	-	-	-	-
Textile mill products	1	1	1	(3)	1	(3)
Apparel (4)	1	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Lumber and wood products, except furniture	2	1	1	(3)	2	(3)
Furniture and fixtures	2	2	2	(3)	2	(3)
Paper and allied products	2	2	1	1	1	1
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	1	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	1
Chemicals and allied products	3	3	1	1	2	1
Petroleum refining and related industries	1	1	9	(3)	22	(3)
Rubber and miscellaneous plastics products	2	1	1	(3)	1	1
Leather and leather products	(3)	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Stone, clay, and glass products	4	4	1	2	1	1
Primary metal industries	3	5	2	2	3	3
Fabricated metal products (5)	8	8	5	3	5	2
Machinery, except electrical	7	8	5	4	11	3
Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies	4	4	4	4	3	2
Transportation equipment	3	3	3	3	11	2
Instruments, etc. (6)	1	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	1	1	(3)	(3)	1	(3)
Nonmanufacturing (2)	52	51	63	77	34	81
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	(3)	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
Mining	8	7	8	40	2	59
Contract construction	9	8	26	20	13	11
Transportation, communication, electric, gas, and sanitary services	7	8	5	3	4	2
Wholesale and retail trade	11	10	5	5	5	2
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1	1	(3)	(3)	(3)	1
Services	7	7	4	3	3	3
Government (7)	10	10	14	6	6	3

See footnotes on following page.

(1) The numbers of stoppages and workers involved relate to disputes that began in the period; days of idleness relates to all stoppages in effect during the period.

(2) The proportion of stoppages reported for a division may not equal the sum of its components because individual stoppages occurring in two or more groups have been counted in each. Workers and days idle have been allocated among the respective groups.

(3) Less than 0.5 percent.

(4) Includes other finished products made from fabrics and similar materials.

(5) Excludes ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

(6) Includes professional, scientific, and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods; watches and clocks.

(7) The situations reported here have, for statistical purposes, been deemed to fall within the Bureau's definition of a work stoppage. This decision does not constitute a legal determination that a work stoppage has taken place in violation of any law or public policy.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Dash (-) denotes zero.

p=preliminary

Table 4. Percent distribution of work stoppage measures by major issue, first 6 months, 1980-1981 (1)

Major issue	Work stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1980	1981p	1980	1981p	1980	1981p
All issues	100	100	100	100	100	100
General wage changes	67	63	61	62	66	72
Supplementary benefits	2	1	1	1	1	2
Wage adjustments	1	2	1	1	(2)	3
Hours of work	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Other contractual matters	5	6	2	6	2	9
Union organization and security	6	5	3	2	2	3
Job security	4	6	18	4	10	6
Plant administration	11	15	10	18	18	3
Other working conditions	1	1	1	3	(2)	1
Interunion and intraunion matters	2	2	2	2	(2)	(2)

(1) The numbers of stoppages and workers involved relate to those disputes beginning during the period; days of idleness relate to all stoppages in effect during the period.
(2) Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.
p=preliminary.

Table 5. Percent distribution of work stoppage measures by size, first 6 months, 1980-1981 (1)

Number of workers involved	Work stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1980	1981p	1980	1981p	1980	1981
All stoppages	100	100	100	100	100	100
6-19	15	14	1	(2)	1	(2)
20-99	41	42	6	5	6	5
100-249	22	23	10	8	9	7
250-499	12	10	12	8	11	6
500-999	7	7	13	11	8	9
1,000-4,999	4	4	22	20	14	10
5,000-9,999	(2)	1	7	9	6	4
10,000 and over	(2)	(2)	31	39	46	59

(1) The numbers of stoppages and workers involved relate to those disputes beginning during the period; days of idleness relate to all stoppages in effect during the period.
(2) Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.
p=preliminary.

Table 6. Percent distribution of work stoppage measures by duration, first 6 months, 1980-1981

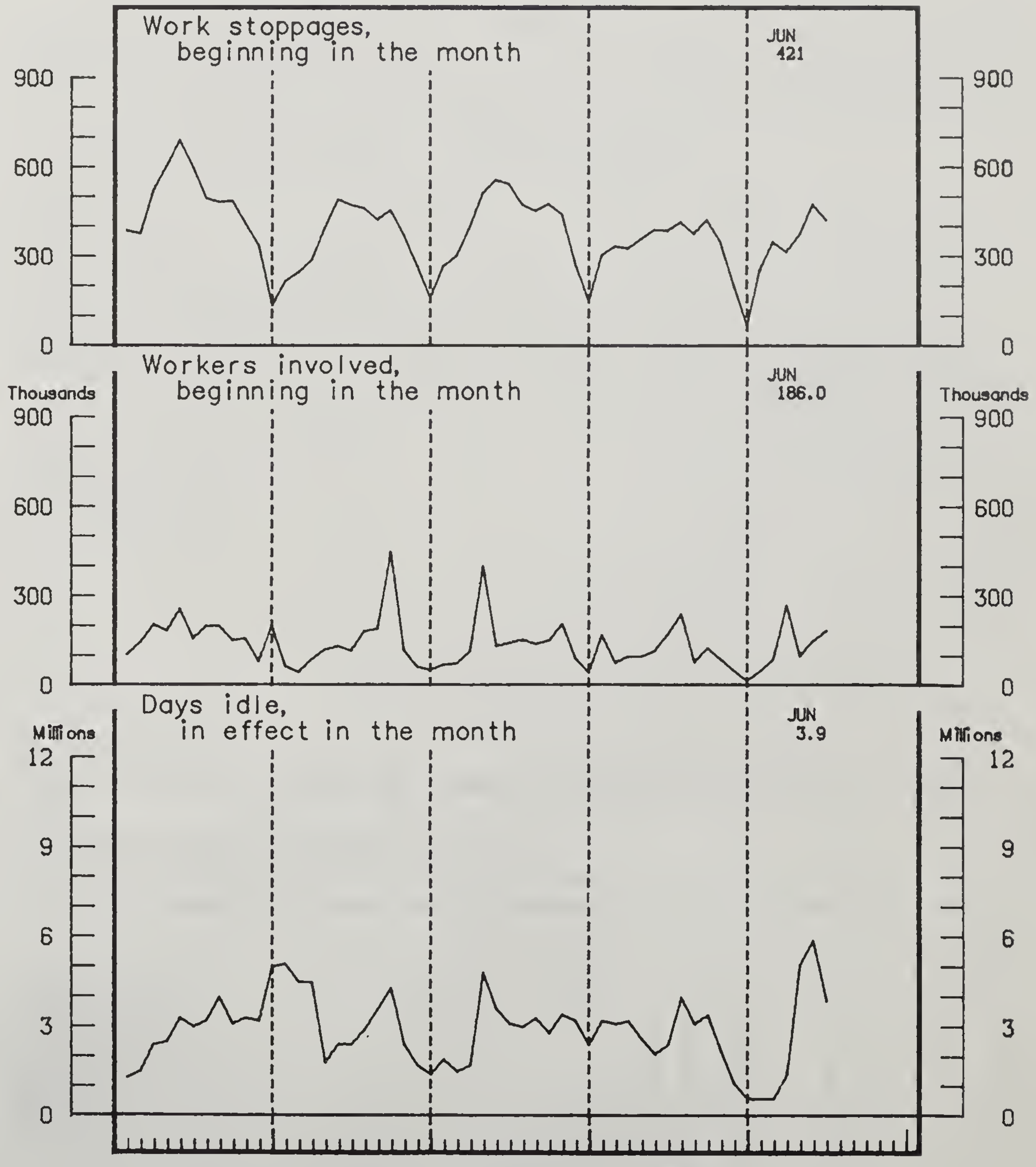
Number of days idle	Stoppages ending in period					
	Work stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1980	1981p	1980	1981p	1980	1981
All stoppages	100	100	100	100	100	100
1 day	10	6	7	5	(1)	(1)
2-3 days	8	7	8	6	1	1
4-6 days	9	7	8	9	1	1
7-14 days	19	14	30	9	11	2
15-29 days	21	20	17	21	10	12
30-59 days	17	33	16	13	17	10
60-89 days	7	6	5	30	11	50
90 days and over	9	8	10	7	49	24

(1) Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

p=preliminary.

Chart 1. Number of stoppages, workers involved, and days idle, by month. 1977-81



Work stoppages, beginning in the month

Workers involved, beginning in the month

Days idle, in effect in the month

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USDL: 81-332

Marcy Jacobs (202) 523-1091
Walter J. Larson (202) 523-1208

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Tuesday, June 30, 1981

WORK STOPPAGES, May 1981

All six major work stoppage measures increased in May over April, mainly because of several large construction strikes, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Most of the indicators in May also were the highest so far in 1981 (table 1). However, the number of stoppages beginning in the month was lower than for any May since 1970, except for 1980. Idleness as a proportion of estimated available working time rose to 0.31 percent (3.1 days idle per thousand) from 0.25 percent in April and was higher in only 2 other years during the past decade, 1970 and 1974. The May increases were primarily the result of five large stoppages involving more than 5,000 workers each which began during the month.

Eight large stoppages (those involving 5,000 workers or more) accounted for two-thirds of all workers on strike and three-fourths of the idleness (table 2). Six of these stoppages were in construction, but the two coal disputes accounted for most of the workers involved in, and days of idleness resulting from, large stoppages. Seven of the eight large stoppages continued into June.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods, to May 1981

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month or year	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	In effect during month or year	
					Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 5 months						
1970......	2,375	2,554	1,286	1,485	20,374	.27
1971......	2,394	2,625	1,420	1,506	13,681	.18
1972......	2,306	2,522	669	784	11,070	.14
1973......	2,193	2,354	792	857	8,880	.11
1974......	2,642	2,836	988	1,050	13,847	.17
1975......	2,100	2,341	660	706	10,433	.13
1976......	2,306	2,580	959	1,018	10,722	.13
1977......	2,572	2,837	894	948	11,023	.13
1978......	1,630	1,871	450	683	19,697	.22
1979......	2,029	2,248	794	869	13,629	.14
1980 (1)..	1,707	1,979	559	639	14,261	.15
1981 (2)..	1,758	1,802	663	682	13,654	.14
May						
1970......	699	1,050	331	675	6,651	.46
1971......	612	957	727	818	4,000	.28
1972......	541	860	155	249	2,604	.16
1973......	536	837	184	257	2,709	.16
1974......	795	1,191	405	524	6,050	.34
1975......	555	850	187	265	3,319	.20
1976......	572	921	164	295	3,597	.22
1977......	689	1,070	256	366	3,323	.19
1978......	489	820	132	224	2,365	.12
1979......	556	976	133	301	3,576	.18
1980 (1)						
January...	304	576	170	250	3,222	.17
February..	332	594	77	248	3,131	.19
March.....	326	605	98	237	3,230	.16
April.....	357	649	98	218	2,579	.14
May.......	388	704	116	172	2,099	.10
June......	385	699	173	224	2,441	.13
July......	414	733	241	336	3,954	.21
August....	374	704	80	211	3,079	.15
September.	420	724	126	247	3,407	.20
October...	347	630	90	200	2,195	.11
November..	201	427	52	101	1,110	.06
December..	66	247	18	48	617	.03
1981 (2)						
January...	253	297	50	68	614	.03
February..	347	517	90	136	647	.04
March.....	314	545	271	339	1,419	.07
April.....	371	560	101	273	5,117	.25
May.......	473	688	152	383	5,857	.31

(1) Preliminary, revised in January 1981.
(2) Preliminary.

Data in this table cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idled as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, May 1981

Company, location and union (1)	Began	Ended	Workers involved (2)	Days idle (2)
Bituminous Coal Industry Interstate (UMW-Ind.)	3/27	(6/6)	160,000 (3)	3,200,000
Construction Industry St. Paul, Minn. (BSOIW)	5/14	---	20,000	220,000
Construction Industry Wash., D.C. metropolitan area (IUOE, CJA)	5/1	5/4	18,000	36,000
Construction Industry Colorado, statewide (15 Building Trades Unions)	5/1	---	13,000 (4)	211,000 (5)
Association of Bituminous Coal Contractors Interstate (UMW-Ind.)	3/27	---	11,000	220,000
Construction Industry Western Tenn. (CJA, PAT, LIUNA, OPCM, IBT-Ind.)	5/1	---	10,000	200,000
Construction Industry Beaumont, Tx. (PAT, OPCM, IBT-Ind.)	4/1	(6/10)	9,000	180,000
Construction Industry N.J., statewide (CJA)	5/1	---	7,500	150,000
Total, 8 stoppages			248,500	4,417,000

(1) The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).

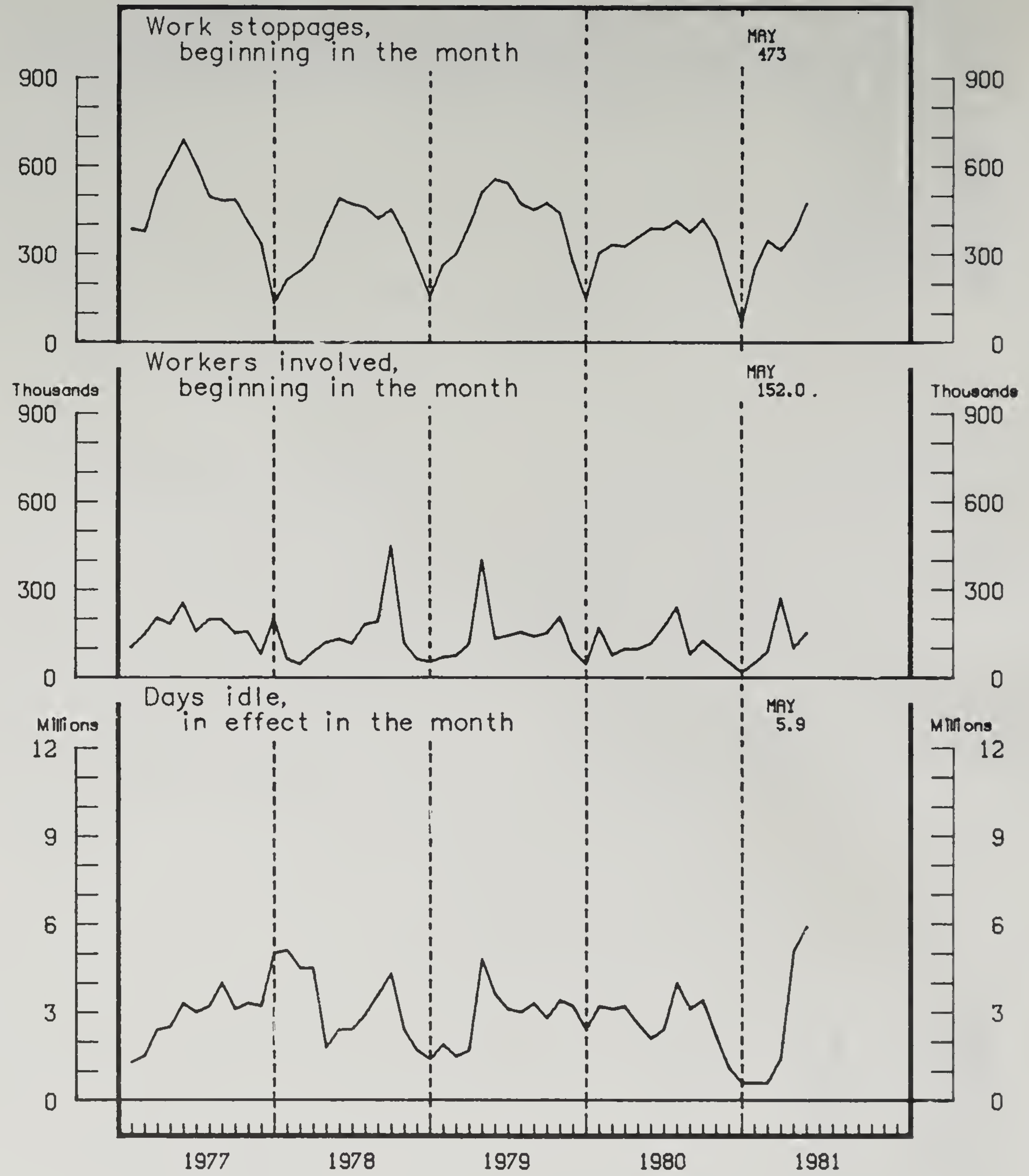
(2) Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

(3) About 9,600 coal miners walked off the job in seven States following the breakdown of negotiations on March 17, and returned to work on March 22; other UMW miners struck after the nationwide coal contract expired on March 26.

(4) About 3,000 laborers and 150 roofers settled and returned to work by May 28.

(5) Staggered idleness.

Chart 1. Number of stoppages, workers involved, and days idle, by month. 1977–81



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Jane Gelman (202) 523-1091
Walter J. Larson (202) 523-1208

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Friday, May 29, 1981

WORK STOPPAGES, APRIL 1981

With the continuation of the nationwide bituminous coal strike, the proportion of estimated working time lost due to strikes jumped to 0.25 percent in April (2.5 working days idle per thousand) from 0.07 in March, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor (table 1). This was the highest April rate since 1970, except for 1979, when a nationwide trucking strike brought the rate to 0.26 percent. The estimated 371 strikes involving 101,000 workers beginning in the month, however, were the second lowest levels -- for both strikes and workers -- beginning in any April in over 10 years. Furthermore, fewer stoppages and less idleness occurred during the first 4 months of 1981 than in the comparable period in other recent years. The idleness rate for January through April was 0.10 percent of estimated working time, the lowest since 1973.

Five large stoppages (those involving 5,000 workers or more) accounted for two-thirds of all workers on strike in April and almost three-fourths of the idleness (table 2). Three of these disputes involved construction workers in Texas. Two of the construction strikes, as well as the coal strike, continued into May.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods, to April 1981

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month or year	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	In effect during month or year	
					Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 4 months						
1970......	1,676	1,855	955	1,154	13,724	.23
1971......	1,782	2,013	693	779	9,681	.16
1972......	1,765	1,981	514	629	8,466	.14
1973......	1,657	1,818	608	673	6,171	.10
1974......	1,847	2,041	583	646	7,796	.12
1975......	1,545	1,786	473	519	7,114	.11
1976......	1,734	2,008	795	854	7,125	.11
1977......	1,738	2,007	718	755	7,513	.11
1978......	1,141	1,382	318	551	15,919	.23
1979......	1,473	1,692	662	736	10,053	.13
1980 (1)..	1,319	1,591	443	523	12,162	.16
1981 (2)..	1,285	1,329	511	530	7,797	.10
April						
1970......	640	884	451	523	5,431	.34
1971......	550	859	181	269	2,389	.15
1972......	498	759	187	257	2,258	.15
1973......	465	728	162	206	1,832	.11
1974......	607	918	190	278	2,945	.17
1975......	491	751	131	205	2,177	.13
1976......	591	894	465	530	3,133	.18
1977......	602	931	184	274	2,517	.15
1978......	395	655	120	200	1,775	.10
1979......	511	833	402	493	4,845	.26
1980 (1)						
January...	304	576	170	250	3,222	.17
February..	332	594	77	248	3,131	.19
March.....	326	605	98	237	3,230	.16
April.....	357	649	98	218	2,579	.14
May.......	388	704	116	172	2,099	.10
June......	385	699	173	224	2,441	.13
July......	414	733	241	336	3,954	.21
August....	374	704	80	211	3,079	.15
September.	420	724	126	247	3,407	.20
October...	347	630	90	200	2,195	.11
November..	201	427	52	101	1,110	.06
December..	66	247	18	48	617	.03
1981 (2)						
January...	253	297	50	68	614	.03
February..	347	517	90	136	647	.04
March.....	314	545	271	339	1,419	.07
April.....	371	560	101	273	5,117	.25

(1) Preliminary, revised in January 1981.
(2) Preliminary.

Data in this table cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idled as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, April 1981

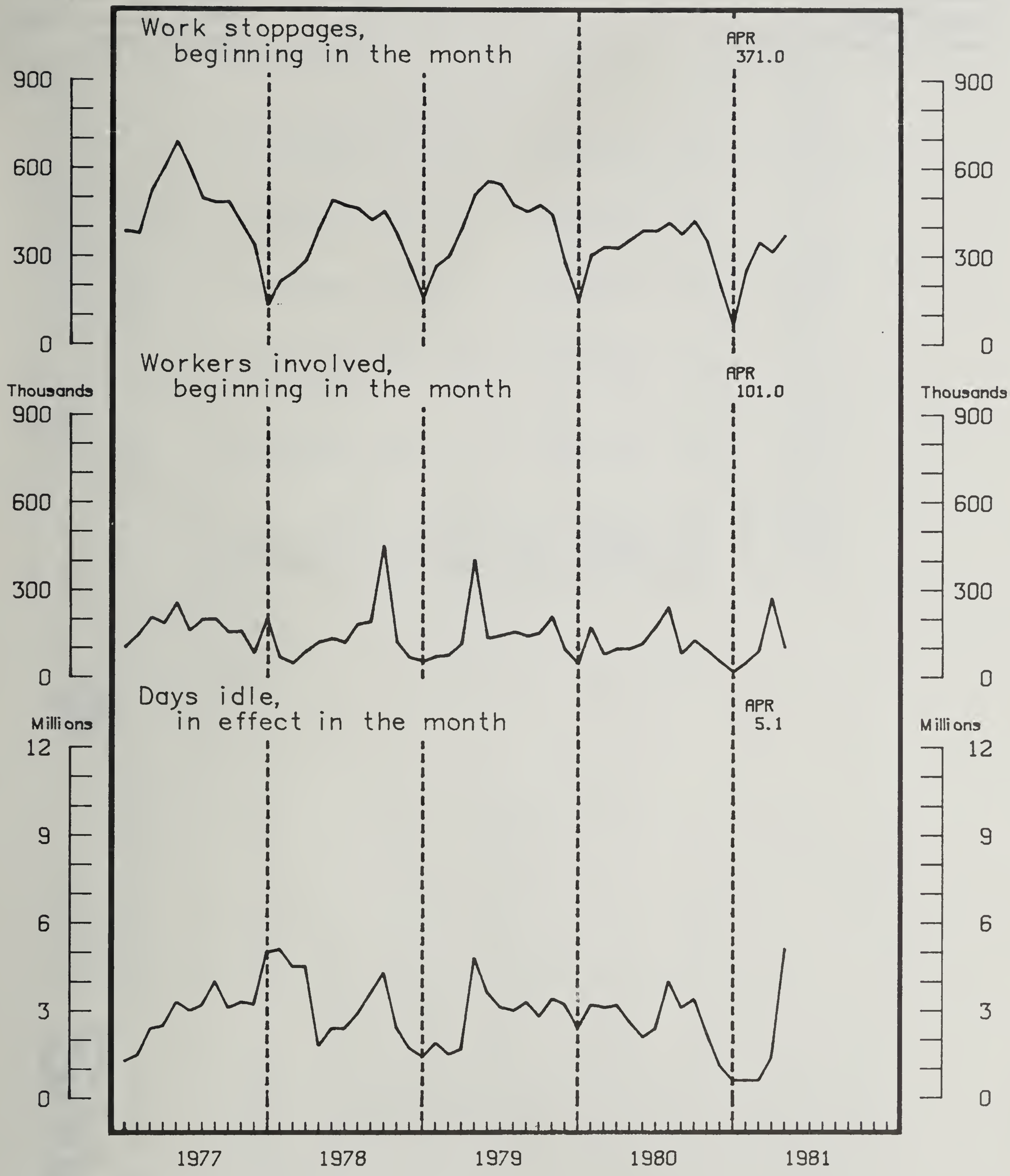
Company, location and union (1)	Began	Ended	Workers involved (2)	Days idle (2)
Bituminous Coal Industry Interstate (UMW-Ind.)	3/27	---	160,000 (3)	3,520,000
Supermarkets N.J. and N.Y. (UFCW)	4/9	4/9	7,000	7,000
Construction Industry Beaumont, Tx. (OPCM)	4/1	---	6,000	132,000
Construction Industry Houston, Tx. (PPF)	4/6	4/25	5,000	75,000
Construction Industry Beaumont, Tx. (PAT)	4/27	---	5,000	20,000
Total, 5 stoppages			183,000	3,754,000

(1) The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).

(2) Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

(3) About 9,600 coal miners walked off the job in seven States following the breakdown of negotiations on March 17, and returned to work on March 22; other UMW miners struck after the nationwide coal contract expired on March 26.

Chart 1. Number of stoppages, workers involved, and days idle, by month. 1977–81



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Marcy Jacobs (202) 523-1091
Walter J. Larson (202) 523-1208

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Wednesday, April 29, 1981

WORK STOPPAGES, MARCH 1981

Fewer strikes began during March than in any other March in the past 12 years except for 1978, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor (table 1).

However, the nationwide bituminous coal strike resulted in over-the-month increases both in the number of workers involved in strikes and total idleness. The proportion of estimated working time lost due to strikes rose to 0.07 percent (less than 1 day idle per thousand) but, because of low strike activity in areas other than coal, this was well below the March figures of any of the previous 12 years.

The coal strike, one of two new work stoppages involving more than 5,000 workers (table 2), accounted for almost 60 percent of the 271,000 workers involved in strikes and about 35 percent of the 1.4 million days of idleness during the month.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods to March 1981

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month or year	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	In effect during month or year	
					Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 3 months						
1970......	1,036	1,215	504	702	8,293	0.19
1971......	1,232	1,463	513	598	7,292	.16
1972......	1,267	1,483	328	443	6,209	.14
1973......	1,192	1,353	446	511	4,339	.09
1974......	1,240	1,434	394	456	4,852	.10
1975......	1,054	1,295	342	388	4,937	.10
1976......	1,143	1,417	330	390	3,992	.08
1977......	1,281	1,546	455	508	5,182	.10
1978......	746	987	198	431	14,144	.27
1979......	962	1,181	260	334	5,207	.17
1980 (1)..	962	1,234	345	425	9,583	.17
1981 (2)..	914	958	411	429	2,680	.05
March						
1970......	427	630	316	403	2,471	.16
1971......	457	725	150	260	2,490	.15
1972......	421	727	162	220	1,830	.11
1973......	461	703	144	190	1,344	.08
1974......	484	763	158	229	2,119	.13
1975......	375	612	101	169	1,774	.11
1976......	443	679	157	199	1,762	.10
1977......	522	816	205	285	2,410	.13
1978......	286	550	88	312	4,479	.23
1979......	396	655	115	182	1,739	.09
1980 (1)						
January...	304	576	170	250	3,222	.17
February..	332	594	77	248	3,131	.19
March.....	326	605	98	237	3,230	.16
April.....	357	649	98	218	2,579	.14
May.......	388	704	116	172	2,099	.10
June......	385	699	173	224	2,441	.13
July......	414	733	241	336	3,954	.21
August....	374	704	80	211	3,079	.15
September.	420	724	126	247	3,407	.20
October...	347	630	90	200	2,195	.11
November..	201	427	52	101	1,110	.06
December..	66	247	18	48	617	.03
1981 (2)						
January...	253	297	50	68	614	.03
February..	347	517	90	136	647	.04
March.....	314	545	271	336	1,419	.07

(1) Preliminary, revised in January 1981.
(2) Preliminary.

Data in this table cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idled as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, March 1981

Company, location, and union (1)	Began	Ended	Workers involved (2)	Days idle (2)
Bituminous Coal Industry Interstate (UMW-Ind.)	3/18	---	160,000 (3)	508,800 (4)
U.S. Steel Corp. Western Pa. & Northern W. Va. (UMW-Ind.)	3/17	3/24	6,000	32,600 (4)
Total, 2 stoppages			166,000	541,400

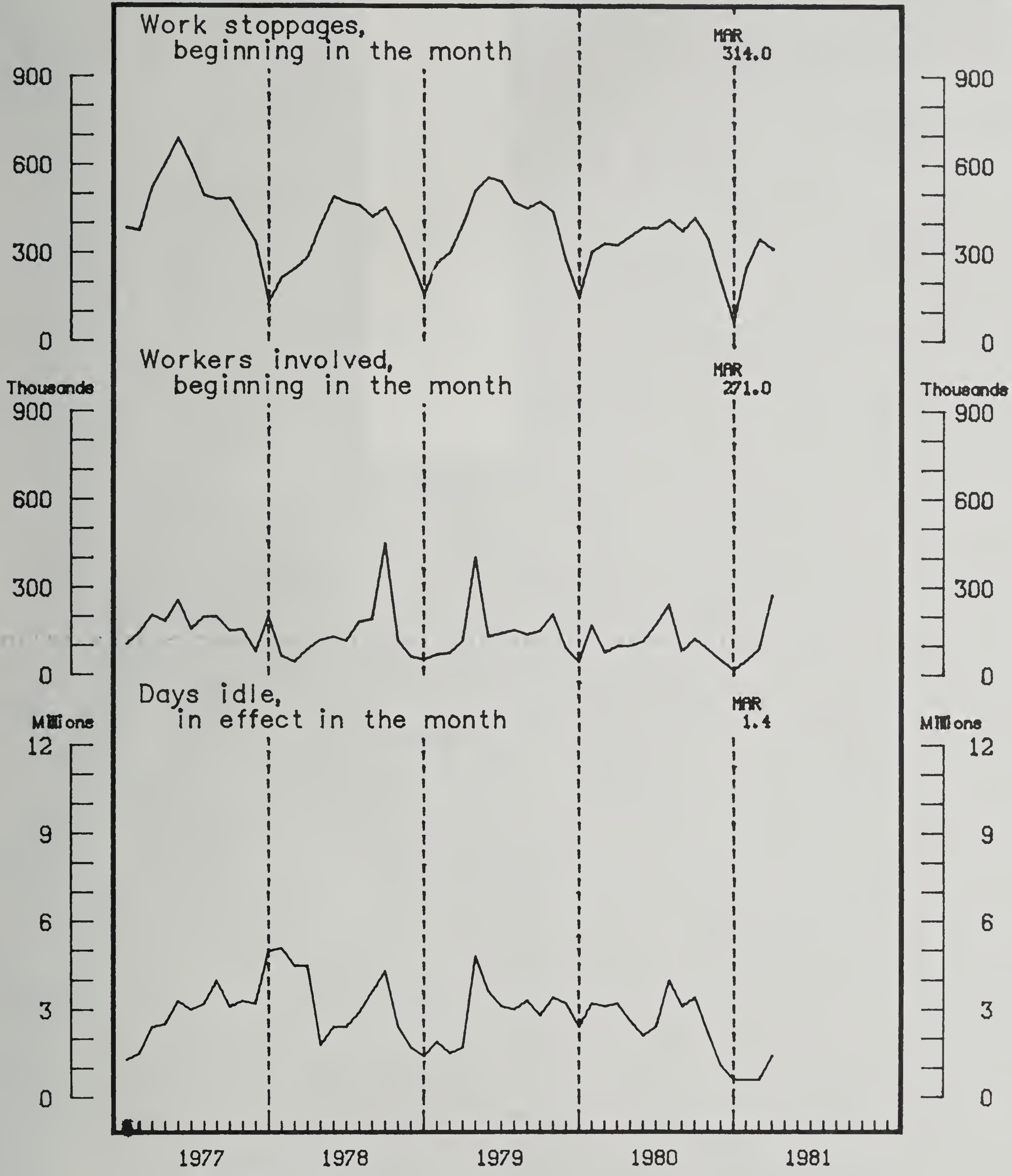
(1) The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).

(2) Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

(3) About 9,600 coal miners walked off the job in seven States following the breakdown of negotiations on March 17, and returned to work on March 22; other UMW miners struck after the nationwide coal contract expired on March 26.

(4) Staggered idleness.

Chart 1. Number of stoppages, workers involved, and days idle, by month. 1977–81



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USDL: 81-158

Jane Gelman (202) 523-1091
Kathryn Hoyle (202) 523-1913

FOR RELEASE : 10:00 A.M. E.S.T.
Tuesday, March 31, 1981

WORK STOPPAGES - FEBRUARY 1981

Most major work stoppage measures remained at exceptionally low levels in February, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. (See table 1.) The 0.04 percent of estimated worktime lost (less than a half day idle per thousand) was the lowest for February since 1944, while the 647,000 days of idleness were the lowest for the month since 1958. A factor in these low levels was the absence of any work stoppage involving 5,000 workers or more during the month, the first time this has occurred in any month since February 1976.

Both the number of disputes beginning in the month (347) and the workers involved (90,000) were the highest for February since 1977. The unusually small number of strikes carried over from January, however, kept the total number of work stoppages in effect during the month, and workers involved in them, well below February 1980 levels.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods, to February 1981

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month or year	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	In effect during month or year	
					Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 2 months						
1970......	609	788	187	386	5,822	.20
1971......	775	1,006	363	448	4,803	.17
1972......	846	1,062	166	281	4,379	.15
1973......	731	892	302	367	2,995	.10
1974......	756	450	236	299	2,733	.09
1975......	679	920	241	287	3,162	.10
1976......	700	974	173	232	2,230	.07
1977......	759	1,024	250	303	2,772	.09
1978......	460	941	109	584	9,665	.29
1979......	566	785	145	219	3,468	.10
1980 (1)..	636	908	247	327	6,353	.17
1981 (2)..	600	644	140	158	1,261	.03
February						
1970......	330	529	116	330	2,111	.15
1971......	359	632	128	206	1,935	.14
1972......	419	675	86	183	1,849	.13
1973......	349	560	151	229	1,335	.09
1974......	377	589	127	167	1,370	.09
1975......	339	540	109	171	1,557	.11
1976......	362	615	96	139	1,030	.07
1977......	375	645	145	198	1,475	.10
1978......	245	485	45	287	4,550	.28
1979......	300	509	75	170	1,548	.09
1980 (1)						
January...	304	576	170	250	3,222	.17
February..	332	594	77	248	3,131	.19
March.....	326	605	98	237	3,230	.16
April.....	357	649	98	218	2,579	.14
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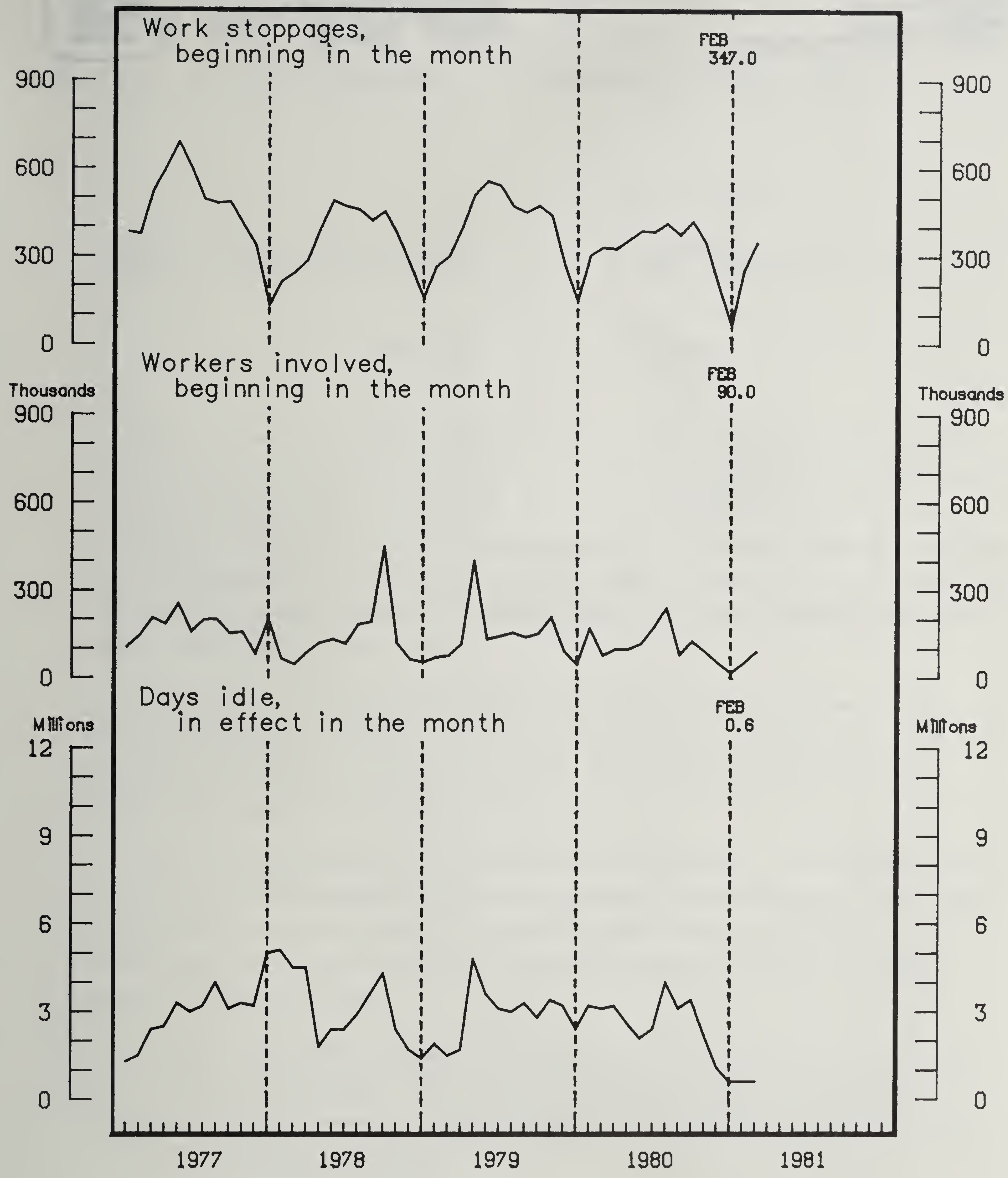
October...	347	630	90	200	2,195	.11
November..	201	427	52	101	1,110	.06
December..	66	247	18	48	617	.03
1981 (2)						
January...	253	297	50	68	614	.03
February..	347	517	90	136	647	.04

(1) Preliminary, revised in January 1981.
(2) Preliminary.

All work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this table. Figures on "workers involved" and "days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as one shift in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Chart 1. Number of stoppages, workers involved, and days idle, by month. 1977–81



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Larry T. Adams (202) 523-1858
Walter J. Larson (202) 523-1913

FOR RELEASE : 10:00 A.M. E.S.T.
Friday, February 27, 1981

WORK STOPPAGES - JANUARY 1981

Major indicators on work stoppages for the month of January fell to their lowest levels in decades, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Working time lost due to strikes as a proportion of total working time (0.03 percent, less than one day idle per thousand), the number of work stoppages in effect during the month (297), and the number of workers idled by these stoppages (68,000) were at their lowest since January 1945.

Similarly, the 253 stoppages beginning in the month was, however, only the second lowest since 1966 (215 new strikes were recorded in January 1978). The number of workers involved in strikes beginning in the month fell to 49,600, the lowest since January 1955.

Only one large strike was in effect during the month. This stoppage, an interstate strike between the American Federation of Musicians and the Motion Picture and Television Producers, involved 5,000 workers and accounted for 45,000 days idle during the month. The strike began on August 1, 1980 and ended on January 14, 1981.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six or more workers and lasting a shift, full day, or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortage.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods, January 1981.

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month or year	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
January						
1970......	279	458	71	270	3,711	.25
1971......	416	647	235	320	2,868	.20
1972......	427	643	80	195	2,530	.17
1973......	382	543	151	216	1,660	.10
1974......	379	573	109	172	1,363	.08
1975......	340	581	132	178	1,605	.09
1976......	338	612	77	136	1,200	.07
1977......	384	649	105	158	1,297	.08
1978......	215	456	65	298	5,116	.28
1979						
January...	266	485	70	144	1,921	.10
February..	300	509	75	170	1,548	.09
March.....	396	655	115	182	1,739	.09
April.....	511	833	402	493	4,845	.26
May.......	556	976	133	301	3,576	.18
June......	542	1,001	143	258	3,075	.16
July......	471	966	155	264	3,001	.16
August....	451	911	139	273	3,261	.16
September.	474	909	152	254	2,802	.16
October...	439	872	208	312	3,369	.17
November..	272	657	91	225	3,198	.17
December..	149	484	45	176	2,419	.13
1980 (1)						
January...	304	576	170	250	3,222	.17
February..	332	594	77	248	3,131	.19
March.....	326	605	98	237	3,230	.16
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(1) Preliminary, revised in January 1981.
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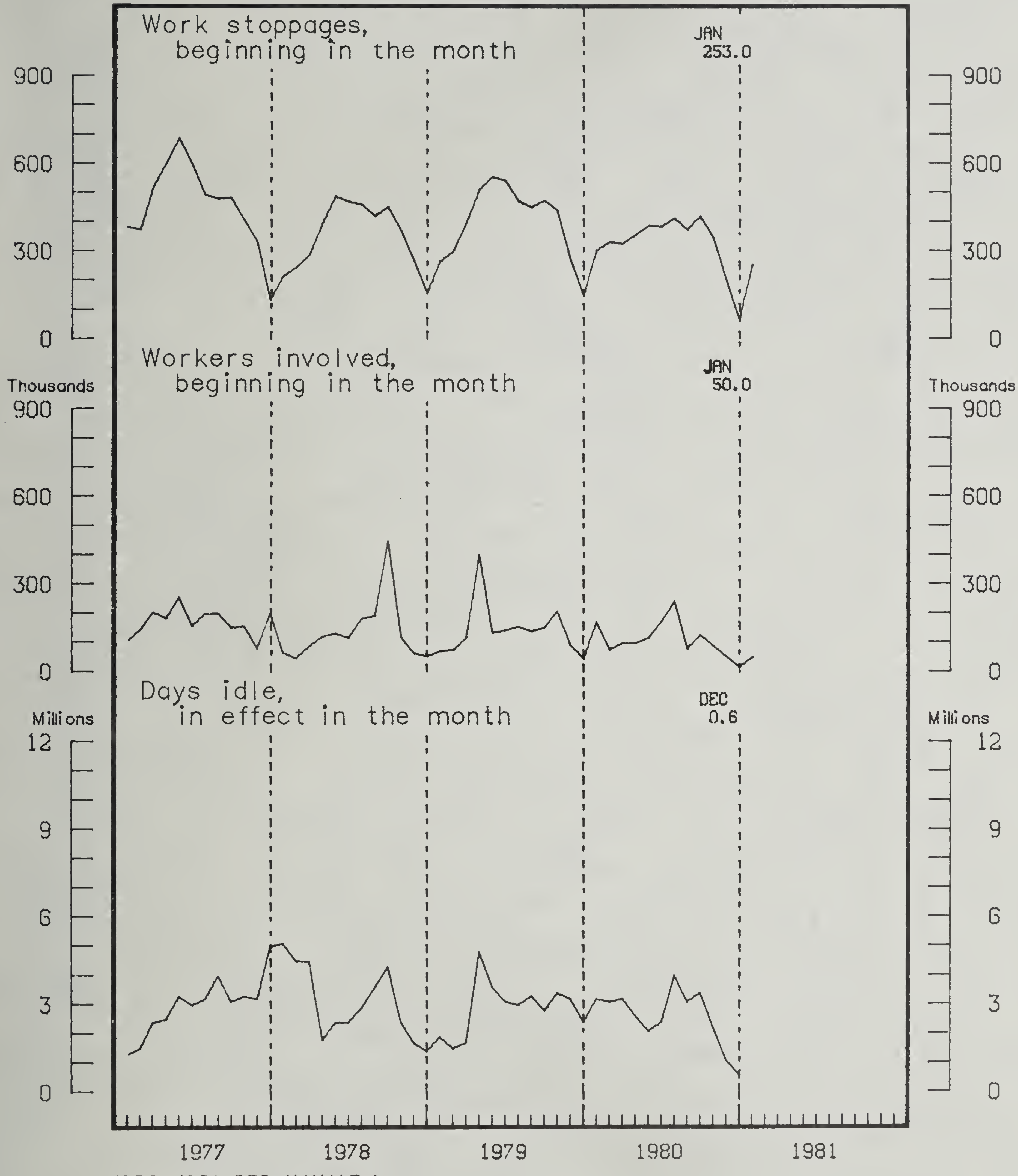

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